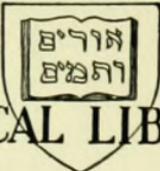


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EXTRACTS
—FROM—
NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS
IN RELATION TO THE CONDITION OF THE INSANE IN
NEW HAMPSHIRE,
PREVIOUS TO THE ERECTION
OF THE
N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.



ASYLUM PRESS,

1890.



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Second Report of the Trustees of the N. H. Asylum, June, 1841.

PREFACE.

The following extracts from periodicals, newspapers, and other sources furnish much interesting information concerning the early history of the N. H. Asylum. Many of the pamphlets from which these extracts were taken are exceedingly rare, in many instances only a few copies remain, and they are retained in private or public libraries. The various articles possess a peculiar interest to the student of psychological medicine in that they reflect the opinions of the medical profession and the laity of fifty years ago concerning insanity. Some of these opinions are exceedingly creditable to their authors, and indicate a broad and advanced conception of the subject that is being realized in the modern classification and treatment of mental disease.

It seems quite proper that in this 25th anniversary year of the New Hampshire Asylum these interesting articles should be collected and preserved for future reference in book form. The publication of the book is wholly private and interesting, too, because it is largely the work of patients in the winter workshop. The composing and press-work has been entirely done by patients. The bequest of Hon. Isaac Adams of Sandwich, furnishing a yearly income for the providing of indoor employment during the winter months, has, in this little publication, met a useful and valuable realization.

C. P. B.

New Hampshire Asylum, March, 1893.

EXTRACTS FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE SENTINEL.

DECEMBER 25, 1834. [*Extract in Sentinel, taken from a Report of the Prison Discipline Society, published in the Christian Register.*]

MR. EDITOR:—I have read the last, as well as the preceding Reports of this institution with great satisfaction; not indeed at the dreadful disclosures, which in some of them have been made, of human vice and wretchedness, but at the faithful investigation of established abuses and at the successful efforts made to remove them.

The most important topic in the present Report, it seems to me, is that in relation to the "Asylum" for poor and imprisoned females. We scarcely know of one among the subjects of an enlightened philanthropy, demanding more urgently the attention of the wise and the charity of the benevolent.

The heart shudders at the very thought of the horrid wretchedness, physical and mental, of the wretched neglect and in some instances atrocious barbarity to which this most unfortunate class of the human family have been subjected. He that wishes to know facts upon this subject, may read, among other documents, collected here by Mr. Dwight, the Report of "a committee of the Legislature of New Hampshire, to whom was referred that part of Governor Dixmore's message relating to insane persons in that State."

The bare statement of such sufferings and of such cruelties is sufficient to melt the most insensible spirit. And heartily do

we concur with the faithful agent of the society in the hope, that such a document will not be suffered to sleep with other forgotten records of New Hampshire. "We mistake" says he "the character of the birthplace of Daniel Webster, if all this is to pass for nothing."

Let the following extract from this able report from New Hampshire suffice. The committee, having stated that though they had anticipated a melancholy account of suffering and distress, they had yet formed no conception of the extremity of the wretchedness which their examination exposed; having promised also that from the imperfect returns given by the different towns they are unable to show the full extent of the evil, proceed thus—"Where are these inmates?" What is their condition? There are individual cases, which, by the kindness of friends able and willing to provide the means, are rendered as comfortable as their situation will admit. The number thus fortunate, the committee are constrained to believe, is comparatively small.

Many, laboring under an offensive hallucination of mind, wander about, the sport of unthinking boys and unprincipled men. A large proportion—seventy-six—are reported to be in close confinement; some are in the out-buildings, garrets, or cellars, of private houses; some are in our County Jails, shut up with felons and criminals of every description; some are in Almshouses, in brick cells never warmed by fire or lighted by the rays of the sun. The facts presented before the committee not only exhibit severe, unnecessary suffering, but utter neglect, and in many cases actual cruelty. To convince the house of the correctness of this general remark, they feel it to be their duty to report some of the instances to which they refer, however painful the account may be to every one not dead to all humanity. An insane woman, who had wandered from her friends, was confined in one of our Jails, in winter and without fire. From the severity of the cold and her fixed position her feet became so much diseased that it was considered necessary to amputate them at the ankles, which was accordingly done, and the woman afterwards restored to her friends in this mutilated condition.

Another female was confined in a garret, where, from the looseness of the roof and her consequently constrained position, she grew doidle, and is now obliged to walk with her hands

as well as her feet, on the floor. A man was confined for years in a cellar, nearly naked, with a bed of wet straw. Another is at this time chained to the floor in an out-building, glad to pick the bones thrown into his kennel, like a beast—one with sufficient property—once in every respect as active and happy as the best of us. It is admitted that these are extreme cases; but let it be recollected, these are but a few of such cases known to the committee. The accounts submitted to them exhibit a mass of extreme, unmitigated suffering, from the details of which humanity recoils.

MARCH 5, 1855.

It should be recollected that Gov. Dixmoor, much to his honor, proposed to set apart a portion of the State funds in Bank, for the erection of an *Insane Hospital*—a most benevolent institution—that the proposition was advocated by his political opponents generally, the Whigs and voted down by his friends. The money has been swallowed up in the State Prison.

JUNE 4, 1855.

The subject of erecting an Insane Hospital will be brought forward this year in our Legislature. Mr. Peabody's Report is now published, which recommends the following Resolution:

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened, that the sum of twelve thousand five hundred dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated for the purpose of erecting a Hospital for the Insane, when an equal sum shall have been subscribed and secured by corporations and individuals for the same purpose.

DECEMBER 17 1855.

Provisions for Poor Lunatics.

The example of Massachusetts has been followed by Maine so far that the Legislature have appropriated \$20,000 for an Insane Hospital, provided an equal sum should be given by individuals. Two individuals, Benjamin Brown of Vassalboro' and Abel Williams of Augusta, with prompt manifestation, promised to give \$10,000 each to secure the object of the Legislature. The time for fulfilling that promise was the 10th of March last. Vermont is working in the same cause stimulated by a bequest of Mrs. Anna Marsh, for an Asylum for the Insane on the banks of the Connecticut river, in Windham County.

In New Hampshire, it has been ascertained by a committee

of inquiry appointed by the Legislature, that there are more than two hundred insane persons, more than half of whom are paupers in a deplorably suffering condition; but we do not learn that any measures have been taken for their relief.

The same subject has been agitated in the Legislature of New York, and it cannot be doubted that ample provisions will be made for the insane paupers of that State. An establishment is in progress for poor lunatics on Blackwell's Island, a city institution, which is intended to provide for several hundred of that unhappy class.

The time is not far distant, we should think, when every State will regard it as an imperative duty, demanded by humanity, to provide a Lunatic Asylum on a plan similar to that of Massachusetts—as a receptacle for persons who have been arraigned as criminals, and acquitted on the ground of insanity; for maniacs whom it is dangerous to allow to roam at large; and for pauper lunatics, whose sufferings under the common municipal provisions have in many instances been most pitiable and heart-rending.

April 7, 1857.

Public Meeting.

Insane Hospital.—The condition of the Insane has excited the sympathy of all men, in all nations, and at all times; and inquiries and discoveries lately made, have increased the intensity of that sympathy, by showing that cases of insanity are more numerous than had been supposed, that the sufferings of the afflicted are deplorable, and that proper and judicious treatment, especially in the commencement of the disorder, will, in by far the greater portion of the cases, restore freedom to the afflicted, and render them again useful and happy members of society; and will, in those cases when cure is impossible, greatly mitigate their sufferings.

Experience has moreover shown that such treatment cannot be as well administered to patients at their homes, as at hospitals erected and designed for that purpose. In other States, Insane Hospitals have been established by the joint efforts of Philanthropists and the Government, and measures are now in progress for the establishment of a similar institution in this State.

The subscribers therefore invite the citizens of the County of Franklin to meet at the Town Hall, in Keese, on Thursday, the 7th day of April next, at 7 o'clock, P. M. to devise such

means and take such measures as may be thought expedient to accomplish this laudable object.

Joel Parker,	John H. Fuller,
S. Hale,	Henry Seymour,
Z. S. Barston,	George W. Starrevant,
John Prentiss,	J. B. Denman,
John Foster,	George Tilden,
B. Cooke,	Abel Wilder,
Lewis Campbell,	Henry Coolidge,
S. A. Gerould,	James Wilson,
Aaron Hall,	Calvin Page,
Amos Twitchell,	John Wood,
Levi Chamberlain,	Samuel Wheeler,
Justin Perry,	P. Henderson,
Elphalet Briggs,	D. W. Farrar,
Abijah Wilder,	Stephen Harrington,
C. G. Adams,	S. Goodridge,
Thomas M. Edwards,	H. Holbrook,
John K. Smith.	

April 14, 1836.

Inmate Hospital.

Pursuant to notice, a large number of citizens of Cheshire County met at the Town Hall in Keene, April 7th 1836, and organized by choosing Han. Frederick Voss of Walpole, Chairman, and A. H. Bennett and L. G. Mead, Secretaries.

The following resolution was introduced by Mr Hale:—

Resolved, That it is expedient and desirable to establish an Inmate Hospital in this State.

After some able and eloquent remarks from Mr. Hale, Mr. Prentiss, and Mr. Barlow, it was unanimously adopted. The following memorial was then presented and read by Rev. Mr. Bassett:—

To the Honorable, the Senate, and House of Representatives, to be assembled at Concord, June, 1836:

We, your memorialists, inhabitants of the County of Cheshire, do humbly represent, that in our opinion measures should be taken to establish an Asylum for the Inmate poor of New Hampshire, as a place of refuge for those, whom their friends are able and willing to sustain.

1. Your memorialists need not inform your Honorable body, that insanity is a disease, as capable of being cured, as other diseases, when not suffered to grow inveterate by neglect. It

is well established, by the statistics of Insane Hospitals; that from eighty to ninety cases, out of one hundred, can be restored to sanity, if taken in season; and that even some cases of twenty years standing have yielded to the benign influence of medicine and kindness, and been restored to soundness of mind.

2. It has been ascertained, that, in one hundred and forty-one towns in the State, there are two hundred and one insane persons, one hundred and three of whom are paupers. And if we reckon the remaining towns, according to what is found the usual ratio, that is, one insane person to a thousand, it will give two hundred and sixty-nine for the State, and one hundred and thirty-seven who are paupers; some of whom are in cells and cages, in chains and irons; some are in cell-buildings, garrets, or cellars of private houses; some are in county jails, shut up with felons and criminals of every description; some are in almshouses, in brick cells never warmed by fire, or lighted by the rays of the sun. And the one hundred and thirty-two, who are in the families of their friends, are the cause of anxiety and distress by day and by night, so that domestic comfort and quietude are wholly unknown by those families.

3. We beseech your Honorable body to look at the Report of a Committee on a part of Governor Dummer's Message of June 1855, in relation to this subject; which is so able, philanthropic, and satisfactory, that we had almost adopted its language as a proper expression of our views and feelings for this memorial; being persuaded that its considerations will lead you to resolve: "That it is expedient that an Asylum for the Insane be established". Besides,

4. New Hampshire should not be behind her sister States in this humane enterprise. She has been before many others in her efforts to do away with imprisonment for debt, to lessen public executions, and to promote the comfort and improvement of her prisoners. But she is behind Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont, and some others, which have Asylums for those whom their friends are able to support. Why should she not immediately follow the example of Massachusetts, which is the only State that has made provision for the *lunatic poor*; and thus have a portion of that mass of ghastly wretches arise from "cracking the cradle of liberty," and be-

ing first in "works of faith and labors of love," to ameliorate the condition of the unfortunate? We pray your Honorable body, to listen to your memorialists, and to establish an Asylum for the Insane poor, and a refuge where the worthy can sustain those of their friends who are now their terror by day and their anxiety by night.

Voted, That the memorial be adopted.

Voted, That John Prentiss, B. Cooke, and A. Twitchell, be a Committee to procure the printing of the above memorial, and to distribute the same to the several towns in the County for signatures.

The following resolution was introduced by Mr. Mead:—

Resolved, That the several Representatives in the County be requested to take charge of the memorial adopted by this convention, after the signatures shall be obtained—cause the same to be presented to the Legislature at its session in June next, and use their exertions to promote its object. Adopted.

Voted, That the proceedings of this convention be signed by the Chairman and Secretaries and published.

Voted, To dissolve this convention.

A. H. Bennett,	} Secretaries.	Frederick Yose, Chairman.
L. G. Mead.		

From the Portsmouth Journal, published in N. H. Sentinel.
Public Meeting in Portsmouth, on the subject of an Asylum for the Insane.

The citizens of Portsmouth, and delegates from several other towns in this State, in compliance with previous public notice, assembled in the Methodist Chapel, on State street, Portsmouth, on the evening of the 6th of April 1836.

The meeting was called to order by John Rice, on whose nomination Daniel P. Drown was chosen President, and on motion of Ichabod Goodwin, Wm. H. S. Hackett was appointed Secretary. Mr. Drown on taking the Chair, stated the object of the meeting; recapitulated the causes which had heretofore prevented the adoption of any effectual means to provide for the Insane of the State, and noticed the gratifying indications that these causes were likely not much longer to exist, and expressed his sympathy in the objects contemplated by the meeting.

At the request of the President, Mr. Chamberlain, Pres-

tor of the Methodist Church, opened the meeting by prayer:

Mr. Cones presented the following Resolutions:

1. Resolved, That it is the duty of communities to relieve the calamities, which from their peculiar character and extent, are beyond the reach of individual benevolence.

2. Resolved, That well ascertained facts show that the disease of insanity is extensive, and that it yields to moral and medical treatment.

3. Resolved, That long and uniform experience proves that the most successful remedies for insanity can be applied only by means of a well regulated public institution.

4. Resolved, That provisions ought to be made by the Legislature of this State, for the erection of an Asylum for the Insane.

5. Resolved, That a Committee of nine, to be designated by the Chair, be appointed to correspond with gentlemen in the various parts of this State, and to act in concert with such Committees as may be appointed for the purpose of calling attention to the wants of the Insane, and the appropriate remedies.

6. Resolved, That a Committee of nine, to be designated by the Chair, be appointed to prepare a petition and procure signatures, to be presented to the next Legislature, requesting an appropriation for the purpose of establishing, within this State, an Asylum for the Insane.

7. Resolved, That for the purpose of diffusing correct information, it is advisable that the friends of the object of this meeting in the several towns in this State, be requested to meet in their respective towns, and to appoint committees of correspondence, and also committees to procure signatures to petitions to be presented to the Legislature in June next, for an adequate appropriation to defray the expense of erecting the proposed Asylum.

8. Resolved, That the President and Secretary be requested to furnish to each member at the General Court a copy of the proceedings of this meeting.

The Resolutions were supported and the claims of the Insane upon the sympathy and aid of the people of this State enforced in addresses from S. E. Cones, of Portsmouth; O. B. Peabody of Concord; Allen Greenleaf, Ichabod Bartlett, C. A. Cheever, Charles Burroughs, of Portsmouth; and Rev. Gardiner, of Exeter.

The Resolutions then passed unanimously.

On the motion of Andrew P. Peabody, Ordered, That the President and Secretary be requested to cause the proceedings of this meeting to be published.

On motion of C. W. Cutler, Ordered, That the editors of the several newspapers in this State be requested to publish the proceedings of this meeting in their respective journals.

On motion of John Rice, Resolved, That this meeting now adjourn without day.

Daniel P. Doxey, President.

W. H. S. Hackett, Secretary.

April 21, 1839.

Asylum for the Insane.

We propose to publish the remarks of the various speakers, at Portsmouth, reported in the journals, as we can conveniently, as the subject will be brought forward in June next.

Samuel E. Cones, Esq. introduced the Resolutions presented above, (published last week) with a statement of the facts in relation to the introduction of the subject to our Legislature five years since, by the late Gov. Dummer, and the results of the inquiries which that body ordered as to the number and situation of the insane in New Hampshire. The returns made at the next session, presented a mass of extreme and unmitigated suffering arising from the want of suitable provisions for lunatics. But, Mr. C. sometimes, the subject was a new one for Legislation, and it was postponed until the next session, without any great increase of the number in favor of a definite action in favor of the plan. The chief obstacle has been the indifference and apathy of the people. The Legislature appeared to wait for the action of their constituents—to ascertain their wishes ere they would make the appropriation. But remarked Mr. C., we are happy to see that the people are awakening to a sense of their duty. The interest in attending this meeting is a strong evidence of the fact—for, about thirty towns of our State are represented here this evening by letter or by delegates. The delegates and correspondence giving flattering accounts of the State of public opinion in their respective towns; and besides, the papers are full of calls for meetings for this purpose, to be held in every section of

this State.

With regard to the number of the Insane, and the extent of their suffering, he said that the returns made in other States, and corroborated by the returns from some sections of New Hampshire, certainly are in a thousand are afflicted with insanity. This would give to our State no less than *three hundred* unfortunate individuals, most of whom are now shut out from the world, incapable of its enjoyments—and in many cases deprived of many comforts which even brutes enjoy.

No less than 76 have been reported in this State who are now confined in cages, in cellars, in garrets, in out-houses, and in jails—and this lot of individuals who once adorned their ranks in society, but now dimly secluded as the moon day-sun lid in the tempest cloud. He spoke of an individual who had been in confinement more than thirty years—most of the time in chains—his dirty pallet, like the dog's cot, strewn around with the bones he fed upon; Also of a lady who is now a cripple, from many years close confinement; Of a human being confined in a cellar, who had not been seen for months, and was fed through a trough in an opening in the wall.

He also very feelingly adverted to other cases, in illustration of the suffering of the Insane; among them not the least touching was the following, which few can read without the tear of sympathy:—A gentleman travelling in New Hampshire, was overtaken by a storm, and compelled to put up for the night at a farm house. The night was boisterous, but the noise of the elements was not sufficient to shut from his ears the moans and cries of distress which seemed to be near the dwelling. The night was dark, he could discover nothing from his window. In the morning he sought and found an insane boy confined in a pig sty, retired to the most distant part to escape the storm, and yet continuing his wretched cry:—"Father! Father!"

Mr. C. remarked that the disease was a curable one. Experience has shown that about 80 in 100 of new cases have yielded to medical treatment. The proper treatment cannot, however, be had without a Hospital where experienced attendants understand the wants and modes of treatment of the Insane; where they can be placed in such a situation, that in their brief intervals they may not be driven at once into madness.

from a consideration of the situation in which they are placed. He made a strong appeal to those who live in the light of the present day, when facts so strongly prove the justice of the call of humanity for an Institution for the Insane; for if in future time the cages, the dungeons, and the chains of the Insane are suffered to exist in our State, it will be because we are indifferent to one of the most important subjects of benevolence which can engage our attention.

M. C. here submitted the Resolutions, which were read by the President.

Charles H. Pensey, Esq. of Concord, after the reading of the Resolutions, rose and said:—

That many of us were told last evening by a lecturer on this subject, that the present age is emphatically an age of benevolence. He said, it is true that the present age is no less remarkable for the liberality of the humane, than for the powerful intellectual exertion and political revolutions. He alluded to the relief which is afforded to the blind, the deaf and dumb, the poor, and the distressed of almost every class; and said, that even the idle and vicious, the guilty criminals of our Penitentiaries, are compelled to acknowledge (such have been the efforts of *life* to improve the physical, religious and intellectual condition) that there is some disinterested kindness extant, and that man does feel for his fellow man.

He did not wish to direct the stream of benevolence, but he considered the indifference to the wretchedness of our Insane, which has until recently existed in this State, unaccountable, except it was from ignorance of their situation, while so much has been done to enlighten the heathen of foreign countries; and he thought it more strange that the same persons should pass heedlessly by the loathsome dungeon of the guiltless insular, who were so earnestly engaged in improving the condition of convicts. He was rejoiced that the the people were manifesting their determination, that those who were devoid of criminality but deprived of their reason, should not be much longer confined to our jails, with mistried persons accused of every degree of crime, and to have different treatment adopted towards the Insane; for he said that the present was in its general tendency precisely such, as is calculated to fix the disease more firmly upon the attacked.

The same remark he thought might be applied to our State which was made by the best authority in reference to Massachu-

chairs: previous to the erection of a Hospital at Worcester: viz.:—That were a system now to be decided, whose express object it should be to drive every victim of insanity beyond the limits of hope, it would scarcely be within the power of a perverse ingenuity to suggest one more infatigable in its general tendency, than that which has been, and is now in practical operation amongst us.

He believed only two or three instances of recovery from insanity were ever known during the confinement of a person to a jail or house of correction. Among medical men there was one point on which there was great uniformity of opinion, and that is, the importance of separating the patient from his family and customary associations. But our insane must from necessity be either wandering about to the danger of the public, or under the care of their friends, or confined to jails or houses of correction. He maintained therefore, that the necessary curative remedies could not be had while we were destitute of an Asylum. The institutions in Massachusetts were not at all times accessible to even those of our insane, who were able to pay the price charged, it being from \$4.50 to \$5 per week. Within a period of five months 33 applications were made for admission at Worcester; of these 47 were received, and 46 rejected, for want of room.

It was the unanimous opinion of the Committee of our Legislature in 1834, also the Committee of 1835, to which this subject was referred, that the expense of erecting a building like that at Worcester, and furnishing the rooms, (calculated to accommodate 120 patients,) would not exceed \$25,000 exclusive of slating the roof, and that the expense of supporting that number would not exceed \$90 per year exclusive of clothing.

The number of insane in the 18 towns reported to our last Legislature was 116: of whom 55 were male and 62 females. The duration of their insanity varied from 2 to 53 years. The whole number of years all had been insane collectively, was 1872. Of these more than half were supported as paupers, and about one fifth by friends not legally liable for their support. In only three cases was the expense of supporting them mentioned, and those were town paupers—two of them cost \$100 per year each, the other \$2.50 per week. There was one town pauper supported at the private institution of C. Pepperell, but the expense was not reported. If

the insane throughout the State is in proportion to the towns heard from, according to the population, the whole number would be 517. But this, he said was probably larger than the actual number, and not near all would be suitable subjects for a Hospital.

The whole number of years of their insanity would be 2028. If nine-tenths of this insanity could have been avoided, (and he maintained that nearly that amount could have been, had the proper medical and moral treatment been applied in the first stages of the disease) the saving to the State and individuals in a pecuniary point of view would have been immense, to say nothing of the thousands of years of mental anguish also avoided. He then spoke of the blessings which such an institution would confer not only upon the insane individual, his family and parents, but also society at large, by returning some of our most talented and respected citizens to the duties of life. He insisted upon the indispensable necessity of an Asylum to recover our insane, as proved by the experience of our own and other States and statistical information furnished by reports on this subject.

To imagine, that the people of New Hampshire, if acquainted with their deplorable condition and the advantages to be derived from such an institution would hold back, would be a slanderous imputation upon their humanity, their intelligence and sense of justice. He alluded to the Turk's answer, to the question of a captain of a trading ship: Where is your jail for the imprisonment of debtors? who replied, "that the believers in their people were alone shutting up their fellow men in cages to persecute and torment them; that he had never looked at one of our debtors prisons without horror." After describing the barbarous manner, in which some of the insane were treated in States, where provision for them were similar to ours, and also the extreme sufferings of many among us, he said that such cases would not make an impression on the same Turk either favorable to our religion or to our constitution and laws.

The plea of ignorance, he said could no longer avail us, and if we continued our present system we were equally barbarous, with those who stowed their insane to death. In fact he said sudden deaths were rarer; kindness, in comparison to the lingering one, to which the friendless insane were liable to be doomed by us under our present laws.

He was happy to perceive the interest and excitement on this subject which existed here and in other parts of the State—hoped it would continue, growing stronger and stronger until it reached every nook and corner, and until it excited our Government to erect an asylum—to do an act, demanded by justice, humanity, economy and sound policy.

Continued. April 28, 1836.

Hon. Abner Greenleaf next addressed the meeting. He brought forward many curious and interesting facts respecting Insanity, and the mode of treatment of the Insane. He showed the necessity of constant kindness and affectionate treatment to overcome the disease—and how the present mode is at variance with that system. He was convinced of the necessity of an Asylum, and hoped that its establishment would be no longer delayed. One idea in his address we think worthy of particular notice, as attending to decrease the amount of lunacy; it is this:—When an Asylum is once established in our State, it will be a place of resort for our physicians and medical students.

There, by acquainting themselves with the various states and stages of the disease and modes of treatment, they will obtain more practical knowledge of the disease than they can now possess. This knowledge will enable them to cure many cases in their early stages, which otherwise might grow into confirmed lunacy. He said he did not cast any reproach upon our State for the long neglect of the subject; it is a new one to our State—it is in fact a new subject. For even now, there is but one State in the Union where the insane poor are provided for. Insane Hospitals exist in other States, but they are for the benefit of those only who can find friends to pay for them—while those who are suffering in almshouses, and as paupers, who most need relief, must suffer and die. Let us not at this time reproach ourselves or others, that the subject has been neglected, but let us now place our hands to the wheel, and not only hope that the work will be commenced this year, but that it will be speedily completed. We are told that there is a time for all things, and it is to be hoped that this is the time for the important movement which now engages the attention of the friends of humanity in New Hampshire—the establishment of an Asylum for the Insane.

Continued. May 5, 1836.

Hon. Ichabod Bartlett next addressed the meeting. In the

course of his remarks, he said that from the facts already before them, it could no longer be doubted that the sufferings of the insane in this State were great, that the malady was one which could be relieved or mitigated by proper remedies; that those remedies could be successfully applied only by means of a public institution for their care; and that he would submit a remark or two on one view only on the subject—the bearing of the establishment of such an institution upon the administration of civil and criminal law.—Our courts, he observed, have jurisdiction over our property—our character—our lives. Acts done or committed in one state of mind, might forfeit property, character and life while the same acts, unaccompanied with that state of mind which constitutes the motive, should draw after them none of those penalties.

He spoke of the ancient rule of law, by which all were made responsible, except the raving maniac, or idiot in the confirmed state of fatuity;—and of the rule of law, as mitigated by the present greater light of mental philosophy. He adverted to those classes and grades of Insanity, where the understanding is perfect, but senses deceive, or the imagination deludes—when the sufferer reasons correctly from false premises. The senses then serve as false leucens to the mind.

Two other conditions of the malady, where the understanding may be perfect, and the senses perfect, but where, by reason of some spasm, or morbid influence, the power and control of them is lost—they reason wrong from right premises.—They are as a ship without a rudder. Volition has no control over their acts any more than over the pulsations of their arteries.—He adverted to that class of the afflicted, whose derangement may be exhibited on a single subject, while perfectly rational in every other. That although the improved and humane principles of modern law do not hold persons responsible for acts done under the influence of such malady—the difficulty—the impossibility of making the nature of this protection to the innocent, intelligible to a jury, in a community where no light exists upon the subject, exposed every one to the danger of unjustly suffering the penalties of guilt.

Mr. B. remarked upon the want of all information upon this subject as the necessary result of the present treat-

ment of the insane. No light comes from the dark recesses of their prison house, where even friends look not in upon them, and, if more humane, the afflicted sufferer is turned loose, a homeless wanderer upon the cold charity of the world;—every eye is averted from him;—all “pass by on the other side,” except the thoughtless, heartless children, who follow only to mock at his calamities.—He spoke of a public asylum as the only means by which information of the nature, character, and evidences of this malady could be understood, even by those of the medical profession;—and as the only mode of diffusing that information through the community which could give any assurance of a just administration of the principles of law applicable to such cases. That this would extend the means of detecting the existence of the disease in its early stages, and prevent hundreds of cases from terminating in fatal calamities to the sufferers or to their friends.

He spoke of the danger of conviction and the infliction of the highest degree of infamous punishment upon the innocent, as not imaginary, but real. That records of criminal courts show hundreds of cases, where persons have been convicted and executed upon the charge of crimes for which they were no more responsible, than the sleeping infant for its dreams. He alluded to a recent case in this State, as one in his solemn judgment, of that character. He spoke in terms of strong feeling, of this calamity, as one to which each of us was exposed.

Mr. B. called the attention of the meeting to the laws of this State, which provides that where grand Jurors refuse to present or the traverser jury to convict a person charged with an offence, on the ground of insanity, that the court may be empowered to commit such person to prison—*“there to be detained till he or she shall be restored to his or her right mind, or otherwise directed by the court of Ave.”* A sentence to imprisonment for life, because they had been guilty of no offence;—and not to such humane imprisonment as the madhouse, burglar, the highway robber has provided for him, with clothing and food, air, exercise, and warm apartments;—while the prisons for the guiltless insane, were the crowded, dismal dungeons of our county jails.

He spoke of the expense of \$250,000 for an Asylum as

less than ninepence on each individual in the State—less than a dollar to the taxable inhabitants—he compared the sacrifice to the Moloch. However, more horrible in its character than the sacrifices offered by pagans to their heathen idols. He appealed feelingly to the citizens of this State to redeem them from this reproach.

Asylum for the Insane.

The recent measures calling public attention to the subject of an Asylum for the Insane, has revealed a state of public feeling more favorable to that object than was expected. From all quarters we hear the most encouraging accounts. Recently a large meeting has been held in Cheshire County. Meetings have also been held in Strafford, Keegan, Concord, Gilmanton, Stratham, Gofford and Portsmouth, and have instructed the Representatives to use their exertions to procure an appropriation from the Legislature to erect the proposed Hospital.

Letters from very many towns represent public sentiment as nearly unanimous upon the subject. Nothing very definite has been heard from Grafton County. But we have every reason to hope that that flourishing part of the State will not be wanting in that sympathy and liberality which are moving the other parts of the State.

We believe that all the newspapers are united in advocating this enterprise. Indeed as yet we have heard of no voice being raised against it. Why then should not a measure so sacred which is universally approved by the people, called for by prudence and policy as well as benevolence.

Portsmouth Journal.

We have before us a letter from one of our Cheshire Representatives, who would, he says, in 1831 have given his vote against the erection of a Hospital had the vote been passed. He was impressed with the belief that insanity was in most cases incurable, and had heard frightful stories of the abuses, and bad treatment of the insane, at some private institutions. He now acknowledges that he was misinformed,—that his prejudices are removed, and will give the project his hearty support.

"The Institution," he says "should be so managed, and the expenses so easy, that every class of our fellow citizens, the poor and middling, as well as the rich, may have access to it.

"An institution founded on the above principle, would, I think, meet the general approbation. I am sure it would mine, and secure my feeble support."

A portion of the Clergy, in the Eastern part of the State, principally, of various denominations, have addressed a circular to their brethren on the importance of bringing before their congregation the benevolent project of establishing an Insane Hospital.

May 12. 1870.

ADDRESS FOR THE ISSUES.

Meeting at Dartmouth.

Dr. Charles A. Dickey, in addressing the meeting, was very happy to lend his voice and efforts to the noble object. He considered the present situation of the insane in point of comfort far below that of the brute creation:—the poor insane are doomed to dungeons and chains, and not infrequently looked about to the lowest bidder for their keeping—to mercenary wretches who would hardly be supposed to look after even the worst of our species; that our reflections must be still more fearful when we remember that with the exception of a small and yearly decreasing minority, its victims are often struck down as shining marks from the ranks of the fair, talented and vigorous:—

That in this philanthropic age, and boasted land of liberty, while we had compassed sea and land to seek our objects of benevolence, the dangers of the unfortunate insane had been passed heedlessly by, and he condemned to suffer as to criminal ever did suffer before:—that the pathetic cases which had been so touchingly related by gentlemen that evening, and recently spread before the public in the prints of the day, were no fictions, but sad realities—indeed so far from being overstrained, that he did not believe the half had been told, and but for cooling their sympathies, he could relate cases within his own observation, that would more than corroborate them. He did not consider that the past treatment of the Insane should be a subject for reflection upon their friends, as their treatment was no doubt the effect of compulsion, resulting from fear and from an opinion that their condition was irreversible and hopeless, from the prevalent belief that insanity was a disease of the *spiritual* nature of man, and consequently beyond the control of remedial agents. He demonstrated however,

that insanity was not a disease of the mind but of the body,—if the contrary doctrine were true it endangered our hopes of immortality,—for if the mind could sicken it could die. He then passed some high eulogiums upon Spurzheim, Combe and others for having thrown so much light upon the necessary connection of mind and matter, and more particularly for having demonstrated by their skillful dissections of the brain, that insanity is in all cases from a lesser or diseased action of its structure; that we owed them a debt of gratitude for the very best and most scientific works upon the subject, leading to a more correct treatment of this terrible scourge.

He then stated that now having a correct theory, the treatment of course must be more correct. He considered the very best treatment for the insane to be the very reverse of what it had hitherto been; the iron which had entered their hearts and seared their affections must be removed—the manacles which had galled their limbs, must be knocked off—must be demolished, and give place to well ordered houses, where affection and comfort should usurp the places of filthy misery and savage barbarity. He then gave some important statistical facts, drawn from a variety of Hospital reports, showing that while under the old system not more than one in *twenty* of the insane were restored, under the treatment which had been adopted at regular Asylums, at least *six* out of *ten* had been restored to health, to their friends, and to all enjoyments which render life desirable.

Rev. Dr. Barcoughs closed the discussion by a strong and eloquent appeal—claiming the establishment of an Asylum for the Insane, not only as a matter of expediency, but also as a matter of imperative duty. He spoke of the two great principles which are the acknowledged basis of true religion—love to God, and love to man. He said that every man who is in want and suffering is our neighbour—every insane person in New Hampshire he held to be his neighbour, who claims his sympathy and relief. He spoke most feelingly of the extreme mental anguish the unfortunate insane must suffer from the course now necessarily pursued towards them for the personal safety of their best friends: they are sensible to every act of unkindness—there is scarcely an individual now confined in the dreary cells of the insane,

who has not his disease more immediately stamped upon him, by the consciousness of unkindness.—He adverted with much effect to the case of King Lear, and the ancient Baldynian note arch, Dr. B. remarked, that recent statistical returns show a great increase of cases of insanity within a few years, in England and in France—and the same causes to some extent existing in this country—will doubtless tend to similar results. As the means of giving them relief, he considered an Asylum for the Insane one of the greatest blessings in the world—he had never viewed one without contemplating it as the footstep of the Son of God.

Longer to delay the establishment of an Asylum he held to be mortal turpitude. Is any one prepared under the light which now exists, to say, I will let it rest another year, when we shall be better prepared—and thus let the highest sufferings of the insane continue, and insanity be increased among us? He happily adverted to the case of the Good Samaritan—and strongly exhibited the claims of the Insane, not on the sympathy of the rich, but also upon every poor man: for under the distressing visitation of Providence, it was the poor man who would be peculiarly benefited by its establishment. He closed his remarks by an expression of gratification at being present on an occasion where all party and sectarian feelings are laid aside, and all are willing to promote one of the noblest objects in the cause of humanity. The Resolutions were unanimously adopted by the meeting, and up to o'clock it adjourned without delay.

June 23, 1836.

EXTRACT FROM THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

If it be the duty of the Legislature to promote the cultivation of the human intellect by providing for the general education of youth—if it be their duty to provide for the sustenance of those who cannot sustain themselves—how much higher the obligations to furnish means of comfort for the poor insane. Devoid of reason, a simple supply of the wants of nature is not all that is required for them. It has been found that a certain course of treatment under competent physical and intellectual management, may restore to usefulness hundreds who without such treatment will be forever lost to themselves and their fellow men. An Asylum in this State, at which provision can be made as well for the permanently deranged as for the recovery of those of

when hopes are entertained, would do credit to the cause of humanity.

It may not be expected of the State that she shall be more than a liberal patron of such an Institution; towns would pay for the support of their poor, and individuals who were able, would by themselves or their friends be provided for at such an Institution. The State might make a grant conditional that another sum should be furnished by munificent individuals. Such an Institution, with the aid of an outset by the State, it is believed could be so managed as to nearly defray its own expenses. It might be conducted under the State authorities, or it might be managed by trustees with such occasional aid from the State Treasury or from any fund provided by the State as might be deemed indispensable.

The expenses of the State Government are almost exclusively defrayed by a direct tax upon the people; and it is desirable that all additional permanent expenses that can be avoided should be dispensed with. But so great is the call of human suffering upon the generosity, it not upon the justice of the State, that it may be hoped that the representatives of the people, expressing their wishes and feelings upon this subject, will consider the time as having arrived when the foundation of such an Institution can be laid.

July 21, 1836.

SURPLUS REVENUE.

We are glad to see prevailing, very generally, the idea, that our portion of the surplus revenue should be safely invested, and the interest only become available, with the exception of some \$20,000, perhaps, for an Insane Hospital.

July 28, 1836.

INSANE HOSPITAL.

[Nashua Telegraph.]

The report of the Committee appointed by the Legislature, upon this subject is an able document, and we hope it will be extensively circulated and read. It gives the most interesting, satisfactory accounts of the success which has attended every Institution of the kind, and places all doubt of its utility, or even economy, out of question. It dwells much upon the success of the Massachusetts Hospital at Worcester, which is established precisely upon the principles which we must adopt here, being founded for the maintenance of the poor, and the only one in the country, so founded.

The other institutions are the result of private enterprise and are supported by individuals who are able to pay an equivalent for the benefit conferred, and are not cases precisely parallel with our own, yet they tend to show the same result, and their history is full of encouragement. We have now great advantages which Massachusetts had not. She was engaged in a glorious experiment, uncertain of its issue, but she carried it through successfully and we have the rich fruits of her experience. The whole matter is brought to us in a state of certainty, and we have only to do the work—the result is certain.

The committee received returns from 141 towns having insane, with a population of 173773; 20 towns having no insane, with a population of 19706 whole number of insane 312—102 of whom are supported at public charge, and 81 confined in cages, jails, close rooms, chains, handcuffs &c. The average period for which insanity has existed in 303 cases, comprising periods from 60 years to 2 weeks, is about 15.1-2 years. The Report says:—

"From the number of insane in the towns reported, 312, your committee feel safe in estimating the whole number in the State, at about 350; of these about 120 or thirty can be judged fit subjects for the aids of a public institution, making a number about equal to that accommodated at Worcester. By these returns your committee are satisfied that the present actual average cost of supporting the insane poor in this State is very near the sum estimated by the late Gov. Dismoor, viz: about \$78 each per annum.—We have seen that at Worcester the expense of one class of patients is \$2.50 per week; and of another \$1.50; if these classes were equal in number as they nearly are at that Hospital, the average cost then remains \$2.00 per week. Let any person make the briefest comparison of the leading items of expense, such as salaries, wages, provisions, fuel &c., in the large and populous town of Worcester, with what it would be in the interior of New Hampshire, and not a doubt can remain that the same number could be equally well sustained here at \$1.50 per week, a cost in fact actually below the present actual expense to our communities.

If in addition to this the very important fact be regarded, that each one of these insane, who is so situated to have others depending upon him for support, is of necessity con-

pelled to transfer the burden over to the public, thus indirectly increasing the cost of insanity upon the people; and if it also be considered that a burden of years must be expected in every case from the hopelessness of cure, which would to a great extent be removed, by the curative influence of an asylum, the committee feel sure that, so far from the institution being an expense to the public, it would be most desirable as an economical, money-saving establishment, without looking at any benefits of cure, amelioration or safety. The committee rejoice that there is still another point of view, which has been presented by the experience of the few last years in such institutions, which they feel must remove the lingering apprehensions of any that an Insane Asylum would be an additional charge beyond its first erection and commencement. It has been found by actual experience that such establishments can be made to a very considerable extent self-supporting institutions; that a very large proportion, about one half, at most hospitals, are in such condition as to render them not only capable of productive labor, but that such labor is of immense consequence as regards cure."

The committee, aided by men of experience in such matters, have made an estimate of the expense of building an Asylum in this State on the plan of that at Worcester. The result is, cost of building, \$19,800; furnishing 120 rooms \$1080—total \$20880. Allowing the whole expense to be \$25,000, there would remain \$4120 to be expended in the preparation of the grounds &c.

Oct. 13, 1836.

SHOCKING CRUELTY.—*The contemplated building of a Lunatic Asylum in New Hampshire, and doing something to ameliorate the wretched condition of the Lunatic.* To this end many philanthropic gentlemen are exerting themselves strongly. Among them is a highly respectable physician, who, urging the subject upon the consideration of the people, relates, through the columns of the New Hampshire Telegraph, the following shocking tale of the sufferings and death of a poor madman, an inmate of the almshouse, whom he was called to visit in the winter of 1831. When he was first cast as a pauper upon the public charity, he was "set up at auction," in conformity with the *housive* custom which prevails in many New England towns, and for a succession of years was cur-

ried about from one part of the town to another—now an inmate of a house not sufficient to shield him from the cold of winter, and now where the occupants were obliged to beg their daily bread. In the course of his weary pilgrimage through the parish, he had been "bid off" by the intemperate, the worthless and lewd; indeed by almost every species of human beings whose avarice, or what is worse, whose love of "strong New England" might induce to become the lowest bidder.

Traversing a town in this manner, with no one to sympathize with him in his distress, receiving sometimes a rebuke and a curse—now a shove with the elbow, then a kick, in order "to make him know something." It was not much matter what he had to eat, he was *cray*, and would never know the difference.

When the poor house was established, he was carried there truly an object of commiseration, with scarcely power to walk—a mere skeleton. Having now a permanent home, a gleam of happiness was anticipated for the wanderer. But not his former sufferings were felicity compared with what he afterwards suffered. The almshouse was small, and the Overseer said, "he must put the crazy man into the shed," which was in the same building, and separated only by a partition of rough planks, from the *serice*. The *decary* month of November had nearly passed when the humane overseer felt somewhat alarmed from the appearance of his pale and haggard countenance, lest he might die there alone, and, as he said, "folks might blame him." In this dilemma he applied, as is usual in such cases, to that epitome of omnipotence, the board of Select-men. These gentlemen willing to do everything to accommodate, very instantly ordered a place to be built in the *cellar* for his special accommodation. A pen six feet by eight, of rough planks, and six feet high, was erected, but which was not calculated to exclude any of the air of the *cellar*, so that the temperature in and about the *dangron* remained the same.

He was kept in his *abode* without a fire or a sufficiency of bed clothes, the landlady observing that she was afraid that if she trusted him with fire that he would burn the house. During his residence in the *cellar*, apples, potatoes and cider froze within a few feet of him, and as might have been expected, his limbs shared the same fate. During all this time he was perfectly passive and harmless. The Select-men happening to

to call and finding he must soon die, advised him to send for a doctor. "I found him," says the physician, "his feet and hands frozen, with other symptoms of extreme suffering from cold, which I cannot put on paper. In this situation he lingered several days, when the welcome messenger—death—put an end to his sufferings. I do not hesitate to say that the immediate cause of his death, was being frozen in that cellar."

[Boston Times.]

[Let us with one consent, vote in November to build an Insane Hospital, even if the State has to borrow the money—but we can use a portion of the surplus revenue for the benevolent object.]

November 19, 1836.

THE ELECTION.

On the question of the Insane Hospital, the town was addressed by several individuals in favor of the measure—by some as eloquent as by the Moderator, Gen. Wilson. The vote was unanimous—all present (141) calling upon the Legislature to go forward in this humane and benevolent work. Gen. W. paid a merited tribute to the late Gov. Dinwiddie, who first brought forward this subject before the Legislature. This is not the only good thing Gov. Dinwiddie did while in office. He made one of the best judicial appointments that could, perhaps, have been made, at the time, breaking through the trammels of party, and he recommended that excellent provision which partially relieves towns in certain cases, from the sole expense of roads which do not especially benefit them.

[On all the Democratic Electoral votes, sent out from Concord, the question in relation to the Insane Hospital was stated, and the decision "Yes" printed. The Patriot folks are so much in the habit of dictating, they could not, it seems, refrain from deciding the question for all their party. Such dictation was resisted, and the cause thereby injured. Another objection has operated widely. The State Prison has been miserably managed—\$30,000 or \$40,000 has been sunk. This is to be a State Institution, and may be badly managed.]

Votes for Electors.

	For Insane Hospital.	Against
Korn	111	0
Hesterfield	10	11

Swansey	25	70
Firewalliss	47	8
Jaffrey	41	0
Surry	38	17
Walpole	70	120
Sullivan	9	24
Gileston	9	70
Marlborough	25	30
Ridge	10	7
Alstead		
Nelson	6	21
Trye	6	25
Westmoreland	11	—
Dublin	89	4

November 17, 1855.

(Continued)

In Grafton and Sullivan Counties, the majority who acted, were against the appropriation for an Insane Hospital, and in all probability, notwithstanding the vote in most of the large towns, a majority will be found in the State against the measure. We are, from the conversation with many individuals strongly inclined to believe, that had the subject of an Insane Hospital been presented to the people accompanied by proper explanations, the vote would have been decidedly in favor of an appropriation. For instance, had it been understood that the State would be made chargeable for the State poor—that Counties would be required to pay the expenses of County paupers, Towns, of Town paupers, and the friends of others, who sought an asylum in the hospital, should be required, if able, to give bonds for paying the bills of expense.

In this case, the annual appropriations by the State would be trifling—almost the only difference would be that between the present State support and the accommodations furnished in the hospital. The best plan should have been embodied at the last session in the form of a statute, with the sum necessary to be appropriated, and postponed for the decision of the people.

January 20, 1857.

THE INSANE HOSPITAL.—The eight week's session of our Legislature has passed away, and so far as we can learn, the subject of an Insane Hospital has not been brought forward in any shape—nor have we seen any record of even a count of the votes of the people in their primary assemblies in November last. Every one supposed that this would be a leading

topic of debate—but alas!—who would risk his popularity by bring it forward? The tariff, the surplus fund, and abolition, took up all the spare time,—and no one would risk his reputation for *sanity of mind*, by advocating the cause of this God-stricken class of our community, who are wandering about the country, or are confined in gaols, cages, or cellars. Our State is already a by word abroad. This neglect is not calculated to elevate it.

September 23, 1837.

Extract from the funeral service of Miss Fisk, by Dr. Burrows.

Perhaps it may be expected that I advert to the disposition which she has made of the handsome property which she has acquired, and the desire which she had that it might do good from generation to generation. Her first wish is, and it reminds us of the conduct of Him, who amid the agonies of the cross, commended his mother to the beloved John, that his beloved mother may have every possible comfort during the few remaining days of weakness and sorrow that she may continue on earth; next that those who have contributed to her relief amidst her sufferings may be rewarded, that those who have members of her family, whether as associates in instruction, pupils in the seminary, or domestics in her service, should experience her benefactions, if they should ever need assistance; and that then, after a term of years, the residue of her property should go to aid the first charitable establishment for the insane that may be made in New Hampshire.

March 22, 1838.

THE INSANE:—By REV. A. A. LIVERMORE.

It is the acknowledged duty of the strong to aid the weak, the rich to relieve the poor, the well to minister to the sick, and of all to do good as they may find the means and the subjects of benevolence. This is so manifest that even under the "disastrous eclipse" of heathenism men comprehended faintly this high truth: So the old classic stories have revealed. Who was Hercules, the invincible giant, but one who avenged the wrongs, redressed injuries, defrauded the exposed, and slew the savage monster and more savage men that lived by blood and rapine? Who were the Knights of the middle ages—a period of virtual heathenism—but the champions of innocence, the saviours of the friendless;

heroes, whose exploits set on fire the poetic soul, and cast a tremulous, glorious ray of light and beauty into the heart of that thick Stygian night? And since the Gospel has been more known, loved, and obeyed by misguided men, this generous devotion to the cause of the oppressed and suffering humanity has stirred more and more the dead heavy mass of unkind.

But the weapons are changed. The Hercules of old is fabled to have fought with his celebrated club the battles of right and truth. The gallant Knight dashed upon his foes with his fierce war-charger, "clad with thunder," and bowed them down with his good Damascus steel. But these martial arms drop powerless before the sublime spiritual forces, that have taken up the cause of philanthropy, that wield the majestic sword of the spirit, cleaving to the heart and conscience, sounding in the recesses of the soul the obligations of duty, and calling unto man to do good unto man. Spirited specimens of generous sympathy, of true-hearted charity, of disinterested benevolence, are sprinkled here and there over the thick register where the crimes of the past are recorded. But never till the nineteenth century did philanthropy become a common stock to heaven the race, shew vast public schemes of doing good, and convert the squandered revenues of cities and states into the mighty instruments of human relief and improvement. Here is a principle of love beginning to beat at the cold heart of man, which will work greater wonders than the Press, Magazine, Senate, or Legislature. The pure, gentle spirit of an humble Jewish peasant will shatter the adulterated inventions, the most studied philosophies, the brightest beamings of genius. Those simple words—"Love thy neighbor as thyself" saidst Plato, saidst Bacon. They mark upon a principle that will recreate the world, when it shall enter lovingly every heart; that will be its purifying flame consume or ashes all evil institutions, customs, and habits, and restore the veritable golden age of goodness and peace.

A dense array of facts might be summoned to testify us to the truth of these sayings. But a single feature of modern philanthropy will suffice. I refer to the exertions made in behalf of the Insane. Formerly this most unfortunate class of creatures were ignored by. They were apparently deemed to be out of the pale of human sympathies, and having lost the great characteristic of man—reason—were treated as less

feelingly as the brute beast, and sometimes even more so. But the pebble eye of Christian Love sees even in these poor wretches the scattered fragments and remains of a kindly nature, and while others sail for Greece or Rome to nurse their leader contemplations over the fallen grandeur of those queens of the earth, she wants not the broken pillars, and the prostrated marble ruins of once beautiful temples and palaces to awaken a luxurious melancholy, but sees a dissolution more grand and awful, more saddening and subduing, in a brother man, bereft of reason; thrown out of his orbit, and dead to all the hopes and purposes of a rational and probationary existence.

Nor has this melancholy spectacle been witnessed ineffectually. By the good will of individuals and the wisdom of States, Asylums have been founded for the relief and recovery of the insane and imbecile.

Success has smiled on these philanthropic establishments. Many have been entirely cured and restored to their afflicted friends "clothed in their right mind." Many have been partially restored and must have been much benefitted. Such an Asylum is very much needed in this State. From four to five hundred persons amongst us have lost "heaven's best gift"—their reason, and surely if means can be put in operation for restoring the greater part of this dark elastic mass to light, order, and happiness, the work ought speedily to be done; for every year's delay renders a cure more and more hopeless. Some efforts have already been made but they have failed of success. But the friends of the cause never will give over, until it is triumphant, for it is the cause of much neglected and much abused humanity.

A few short articles on this important and deeply interesting subject will in future papers be presented to the attention of the reflecting and philanthropic, with the hope that they will produce a better informed and livelier interest in the insane, and accelerate the founding of a State Asylum for their benefit.

March 29, 1838.

THE ISSUES.— BY REV. A. A. LIVINGMORE.

The proportion of sane to insane persons has commonly been estimated at 1000 to 1, but this does not probably give the full amount of insanity. Taking however this estimate, and as in 1820 the population of New Hampshire was 209,

328, the number of lunatics would be at least 563.

It is proved to be greater than 1 to 1000, certainly in this State, by the following facts: Gov. Dinwiddie, an early and active friend of the insane, issued a circular to the selectmen of the several towns, dated July 27, 1832, requiring the number, condition, etc. of the deranged to be reported.

Through negligence, or some other cause, only 83 towns out of 210 returned answers. Those 83 reported 235 insane, of whom 58 were paupers. But another fact is quite conclusive. In a report to the Legislature in June, 1836, Dr. Bell, now at the head of the McLean Asylum, Charlestown, Mass., stated that at that time reports had been obtained from 161 towns in the State, which with a population of 1,355,29, had 312 inmates. Personal observation also, though limited, has shown that towns of from 1,000 to 2,000 have 3, 4, or 5 insane, though some are happily exempt from this dreadful evil.

Insanity increases in the world as civilization advances, because the causes which disturb or overthrow reason become more numerous. Dr. Rockwell of the Bristlebone Asylum observes that "perhaps there is no country in which it prevails to so great an extent as in these United States. Among the greatest moral causes, are disappointed hopes and inflated pride." How discreditable to us then, if we have a large amount of the evil, not to take the best measures to diminish it!

In the report of 1836 before referred to, out of 312 insane there were 162 paupers, supported entirely at the public expense. The old custom was to put them with other paupers up at auction and hand them over to those who would bid the lowest on their support. It is easy to imagine into whose hands they would generally fall, and how they would be treated. They must often have fallen to the "cruel mercies" of those totally incompetent to do much either for their comfort or their cure. Fortunately, poor farms are gradually taking the place of selling at auction.

As many of the insane are furiously mad, it is necessary to confine them. Confinement exasperates them, and they gradually sink into a hopeless and incurable state. Those who cannot be kept at home are often sent to the jails. Here they have sometimes been neglected, and treated with a cruelty, worthy only of a barbarous people. A deranged

female was thus confined in this State. During the winter her feet froze and both required to be amputated. And when not kept in jails, their confinement has often availed more of Olmutz or the Bastille than of New England humanity. A friend in this State writes as follows: "An insane pauper in a neighboring town was confined in a brick cell, in the cellar, in the midst of winter, and without a fire, until his feet froze and dropped off, and the poor wretch perished!" Of the 312 insane reported in 1836, 81 were confined in various ways, in cages, jails, close rooms, chains, hand-cuffs &c. One had been chained most of the time for 10 years. One was confined several years—a gentleman perfectly harmless at first, who was gradually reduced to object misery by hard treatment. One always confined in irons, sometimes in jail, had been insane 20 years. One female was confined in a small room in the poor house for many years, so that she lost the use of her limbs.

When therefore we see how many are, and are likely to be, insane in our State, it is becoming a civilized and Christian community to do something to remove or to mitigate so much woe and wretchedness? Shall it be said of New Hampshire that she is the last of the States that welcome and prosecute philanthropic objects? When we consider the cruelty, neglect, and hopelessness of cure, to which many insane are now subjected, and that a majority might be restored to perfect reason, or so far improved, as to cease to be a curse and terror to their friends—so to labor and help support themselves. What mind is not convinced that a State Asylum of some sort ought forthwith to be provided for the recovery and relief of these poor outcasts of the human family? The subject will be continued.

April 12, 1838.

THE INSANE.—

By REV. A. A. LIVERMORE.

The duty of establishing an Asylum was urged in the last paper on the ground of the number and the attention of the insane in this State. The present article will be devoted to *the means and the success of curing these unhappy beings.*

In their present condition few can be, few are cured. The causes that made them insane are around them, tending to keep them so. House and friends are hateful to them, and serve to perpetuate the disorder. Some run at large, exposed to the summer's heat and the winter's cold, indebted to

charity for a crust of bread or a resting place in the barn, subjected to insults and injuries, numbered by the wanton treatment of the unfeeling, and spreading stolidity and terror wherever they roam. Others, still worse off, are consigned to jails, cages, cellars, and out-houses, sometimes chained till they lose the use of their limbs, often naked, filthy beyond description, long-haired and long-bearded, and resembling the wild beasts of the forest more than creatures made in the image of God.

As has been strongly said by another—"To him, whose mind is debilitated, a prison is a tomb, and within its walls he must suffer as one who wakes to life in the solitude of the grave. Existence and the capacity of pain are alone left him." To show that these are facts and not fancies, we may appeal to Mass. In that State 37 inmates were found in prisons. One had 2, one 3, one 5, one 10, and others different numbers. "One man had been confined 2 years. He had no bed, chair, or bench, and no clothing except a wreath of rags round his neck, and another around his body. Two or three rough planks were screwed around the room, a heap of filthy straw, like the nest of swine, was in the corner." In the prison of 3 inmates they were confined in separate cells, which were almost dark dungeons.

The ventilation was so incomplete that more than one person on entering them has found the air so fetid as to produce sickness and almost vomiting. In the prison where there were 5 inmates, their condition was also wretched, but the apartment of the females opened into the yard of the men. The prison, in which there were 16, contained two, a male and a female, in the same room, about seventy years of age; the man had been confined there 21 and the woman 9 years—they were lying upon straw, covered with a few filthy and tattered rags, and a storm driving in upon them through the broken windows. Another had been confined 8 years. This room was warmed by no fire. When seen through the officer in the door, through which his food was conveyed, the first question was, is that a human being?

The hair grew from one side of his head, and his eyes were like balls of fire. In the collar, without fire and with broken windows, were five of these poor wretches, and, as might be supposed, the warden of the house said: "We have a right to do, to keep them from freezing." One for

male had been committed to this collar 17 years ago: one man was put in there in 1810.

If the dangers of the Inquisition or the mines of Siberia can tell of barbarities more horrible, let them speak. But the fame is not to be measured out to those concerned in such things without palliation. It was deemed necessary to be harsh with the insane formerly. They must be restrained and there was no safer or more summary way than to lock them up or chain them. They were then neglected, they tore their clothes from their bodies, destroyed the furniture in their rooms, broke all the glass that came within their reach, could neither be starved, cooked or washed; could not be treated with any drug and in the course of 10, 20 or 30 years, during which some were held in duress, they were reduced to this more deplorable condition, above described. Under circumstances of neglect, filth, cold and breeding constantly over their woe, or collapsing into idleness, how were any cures to be expected? Where will you point to any cures taking place under this inhuman regime.

But turn your eyes from this dark picture to the brighter day which is arising upon this most pitiable class of earth's sons and daughters. New modes of treatment are applied to the insane, and the most sanguine hopes have been unfolded. Many scandals have, however, been circulated respecting Insane Asylums, because some private institutions have been mismanaged; a sweeping inference of condemnation has been drawn against all Lunatic Hospitals. But the large public Asylums, such as the McLean, the Worcester, Bloomingdale, and the Bristolboro, challenge inquiry; they desire not concealment, but publicity; they demand to be known, to be tested: they receive visitors, public reports, and from year to year urge upon the attention of an untroubled public the claims of those who, in losing their reason, have lost all that constitutes the hope, the end, the improvement, the happiness of human life on earth.

In these Hospitals the insane are placed in warm rooms, kindly treated, allowed to take the air, to exercise, labor, and to amuse themselves. Some are put under a course of medical treatment, which restores the diseased functions of the brain to soundness. And what is the result of this regimen, so opposite to imprisoning, chaining, whipping, starving, terrifying and freezing—the ancient modes? The results were

more like fiction than stern reality, but they are too well attested to be gainsaid. No one, who has a human heart beating in his own breast, can read unimpressed the reports of these Asylums. He must either be something more than man, or something less than man, that feels no warm thrill in his veins, as he peruses the account of the restoration of 267 out of 278 insane persons, at Worcester in 5 years, to the capacity of reason, virtue and happiness. Where is he that sees reason himself, and knows its solid joys, who can coldly pass over this radiant chapter in the chronicles of philanthropy.

Besides those who are entirely restored, many are very essentially improved, by the medical, mental and moral treatment of the Asylums. Dr. Woodward of the Worcester State Lunatic Hospital, says in his report of 1854, that "*in recent cases of insanity, under judicious treatment, as large a proportion of recoveries will take place, as from any other mode known of equal severity.*" Under his excellent care, the recoveries, including all cases, have been at the rate of 57 per cent; new cases, or less than a year's duration at 80 per cent; and old cases, or more than a year's standing at 20 per cent.—Other hospitals in our own, and other countries afford similar encouraging accounts of the curability of the insane. Many cases like the following are related of those who have been entirely cured or very much improved at the Asylums:—

"One man had committed homicide and had been in prison 25 years—1 year he had not felt the influence of fire, and many nights he had not lain down for fear of freezing. He had not been shaved for 27 years, and he had been pumiced, and excised by the introduction of hundreds, to see the exhibition of his raring. He is now in comfortable health, well clad, keeps his bed and room remarkably clean, and, although very insane on certain subjects, is most of the time pleasant, companionable, and entirely harmless and docile. He shares himself twice a week—sits at table with sixteen others—takes his meals—walks about the village and over the fields with an attendant to accompany him, and enjoys himself as well as his disease will permit."

"One had been confined a violent maniac. Had been caged and chained five years. It was concluded to set him free and see how he would conduct. (This was before he came to the Asylum.) He fell foul on his brother, and killed him with a halibut, and, pursuing his sister, would probably

have done the same to her, had he not been arrested in season to prevent it. When caged he was naked and filthy, but now dresses neatly, is cleanly and civil; mingles freely with sixteen other persons, and, though quite insane, is to us perfectly harmless."

"One, a female had been insane three months. Trial had been made in a private institution to remove the disease, without benefit. When this patient came into the Hospital, her situation was truly deplorable—violent, filthy, noisy, and ill-mannered in the extreme. She refused her food, and resisted every effort to administer it as she did every attempt to make her comfortable in other respects. She has been reduced by depletion and starvation, without any favorable influence upon her mind. She was immediately put under the influence of active remedies, and every effort was made to excite some feeling of self respect. In a few days there was a manifest amendment; her appetite improved, and she began to give some attention to personal cleanliness. She exchanged her filthy and tattered garments for decent apparel. In two weeks, she sat at work, in one month, she was transformed into a beautiful and intelligent woman, and left the Hospital, at the end of two months, quite recovered."

May 31, 1838.

THE INSANE—

By REV. A. A. LIVERMORE.

A few weeks ago a circular was sent to each town in this County, to some person who it was presumed, or known, would take an interest in the subject, and reply to the questions. The circular contained the following queries:

1. What is the number of insane, in——?
2. How many of each sex?
3. How many paupers?
4. How long has each been insane?
5. What are the causes of insanity in each case?
6. What are the respective ages?
7. Are they natives or foreigners?
8. Have they committed any crime before, or since they were insane?
9. How are they kept, treated, supported, &c.?
10. Has any one recovered entirely who was once insane?
11. Has any one been at an Insane Asylum, and what has been the result? Mention the Asylum if known.
12. What is the state of opinion on the subject in——.

and what are the objections to the establishing of a State Lunatic Hospital?

23. Was your town for or against such an institution, when the vote was taken in N. H. on the question in 1834, and how did the vote stand?

Out of 22 towns comprising Cheshire County, I have received replies from 14, and hoped to have done from all, ere this time, and hope to do so yet, before the session of the Legislature. I will place the answer under the figures, referring to the preceding question.

1. Fourteen towns, with a population of 18,480 according to the census of 1830, give *forty insane*. In addition many cases are mentioned of those who have been insane lately, but who are now well, or who could not be with propriety discontinued insane. Four insane persons, not reckoned amongst the 40, committed suicide within a year past and several others previously. One town has *ten* insane now, and has had *eigh-teen*, within a few years!

If these 14 towns are a specimen of the whole State, we have more than 540 insane, as the population in 1830, was 200,000. What a mighty mass of unrelieved and comparatively unknown suffering! Shall nothing be done to lessen or remove it? Thanks to heaven, measures are on foot to do something, as well as to talk and write about the subject.

2. Twenty are female, eighteen are males, and two not known.
3. Eleven of the forty are paupers.
4. The length of insanity varies from a few weeks to 50 or 60 years.
5. The causes of insanity are various, as unkind treatment, sickness, embarrassment in business, religious concern and excitement, fear of losing to want, ill health, disordered affections, intemperance, trouble of mind and constitutional tendencies. In many cases the causes not known.
6. The ages vary from 20 to 80.
7. All are stated to be natives of this Country.
8. Some of them have committed any crime worthy of notice. Some have attempted suicide and failed.
9. Their treatment is various. Eleven are supported by the public, some are their friends, and some by either possessed of property, or own work for their support. One is said to be emphatically a wanderer. He is homeless;

and travels in the towns bordering on the Connecticut river, on both sides, and subsists on Charity."—One who is about 70 years old, has been insane 28 years; and has for more than 20 years been confined in a wooden cage.

10. Besides the 40 who were insane, 11 others have been insane within a few years and have recovered. "*One was kept locked in a cage, placed in a barn, during the most part of a cold winter, yet he recovered, and now maintains his family.*"

11. Several have been at the different Insane Asylums, at Groton, Pepperell, Charlestown, Hartford, Bloomingdale, and Brattleboro; and the result in a majority of cases has been strikingly in favor of such institutions.

12. The state of opinion in general, on the subject, is best described by the word *indifference*; though it is hoped that the efforts that have been made by the friends of the Insane, during the past winter and spring, have not been without some good results, in enlightening the minds and removing the prejudices of men, and showing them a great and neglected duty. The objections against such an institution, are thus stated by different correspondents: the expense of erecting, and maintaining it; its liability to be mismanaged, as the other State trusts are thought to have been; the cost to those who wish to place friends at the institution, or to towns which wish to send their insane paupers there; a want of confidence in the people of the propriety of such an Asylum, *prejudice* against private Asylums; ignorance, a jealousy but the poor will not be admitted to its privileges as well as the rich; that the salaries of the officers would require a large annual State tax est. The expense is the greatest objection. The poor is the most tender nerve in the human constitution, and if you touch that you touch the apple of the eye. But what is money good for except to do good with? And how can it be better bestowed than in relieving the sufferings and restoring the reason to the deranged? He that uses his money in doing good lends to God, and receives the highest interest.

13. Of the 14 towns, the vote in 5 has not yet ascertained, except is general—3 were almost unanimously in favor, and 2 opposed an Asylum. Of the remaining 9 towns, 5 were opposed, and 4 in favor, in the whole giving a vote of 280 against, and 248 for an Asylum. In most towns a very small vote was cast. It is to be hoped that a different vote

would be drawn if the question was taken now.

I hope in due time to be able to complete the statistics of the insane in this county; and that the interest thus has been awakened throughout the State will not be suffered to fall away, before effective measures are adopted for the relief of a large body of inmates in our midst. Any subscription for a Lunatic Asylum, or statement of sums that will be paid, whenever a Board of Directors is chosen, will be gratefully received by the subscriber in person, or in his absence by Mr. George Tilden, and an account thereby rendered at the meeting in Concord, on the 15th of June next.

July 17, 1838.

THE ISSANE HOSPITAL.

The meeting in the Unitarian Church, of the friends of the Insane, at Concord, was highly interesting, and had a most happy effect. These friends are from every section of the State, and the members of the Legislature being present, most of them had the best opportunity to become acquainted with the subject. The number of this unfortunate class amongst us—the sufferings many of these victims, by being confined in jails, in cages, or wandering about—without knowledge of their ever being restored, and becoming useful to themselves, their families, or society, without an institution of this kind—the great success which has attended their efforts in other States, where hospitals have been erected—the fact that insanity is a curable disease, in most cases, the relief resulting from the state of the body—our duty as philosophers and Christians—were all dwelt upon by the gentleman who addressed the meeting, and produced conviction in all minds. J. H. Stebbins, Esq. of Portland presided. The several speakers Mr. Person and Rev. Mr. Boston of Concord, Rev. Isaac Wright of Mass., Judge Parker and Rev. Mr. Livermore of Keene, Mr. Fox and Rev. Mr. Osgood of Nashua, and Mr. Haven of Portsmouth. Mr. Livermore has collected some valuable statistics on the subject in this county. There he dwelt accompanied with many appropriate personal remarks. Mr. Haven was eloquent, —a very ready speaker; in fact all the speakers were listened to with deep attention,—though it must be confessed Mr. Wright's display of views were far more extended for the occasion.

The Moderator then noticed Judge Parker's remarks:—

"Among the addresses at the Unitarian Church, on Wed-

wednesday evening, we were particularly pleased with that given by Judge Parker—and for two reasons,—he was brief and clear: He urged the necessity of a hospital on the ground of justice. If the insane become injurious and dangerous, they are required to be incarcerated in a gaol until they are made better. They are punished for their insanity. They are confined with felons till they are restored to reason. The very course is taken which it is likely will confirm the derangement. This is unjust; it is inflicting punishment of those who do not deserve it.

When Judge Parker had finished, he left off speaking—in excellent manner found in all who spoke."

Aug. 25, 1858.

AYLUM FOR THE INSANE.—The meeting for accepting the charter and for preliminary steps, was numerously attended at Concord. John Correll, Esq. of Jaffrey, has subscribed the very liberal sum of \$500 and several others \$50. The sum necessary will doubtless be obtained.

Nov. 25, 1858.

An adjourned meeting of the citizens of Keene, in favor of the erection of a State Asylum for the Insane was held at the Town Hall, on Tuesday evening, Nov. 29. Dr. Amos Twissbell, is the Chaire, and U. C. Deany, Secretary.

On motion, a Committee, consisting of Hon. Joel Parker, John Prentiss and Rev. Z. S. Benson, was appointed to draft Resolutions for the meeting, and reported the following, which, after many interesting and eloquent remarks, were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That we highly appreciate the philanthropic efforts that have been made in various parts of the State in behalf of that unfortunate portion of our fellow-citizens who are deprived of reason.

Resolved, That the results presented by the Reports of the establishments in other States, give encouragement that out of the of all recent cases may be restored to their families and friends, and the enjoyment of society.

Resolved, That the subject of an Insane Hospital in this State makes a strong appeal to the benevolence of all persons in the community to contribute according to their ability.

Resolved, That the sum of fifty thousand dollars ought to be raised, for the erection and endowment of the Hospital, in order that gratuitous assistance may be given to such for

the income that are unable to pay the necessary expenses.

Resolved, That the Chairman of the meeting be requested to procure an Agent to visit each family in town, and solicit subscriptions.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting together with the Resolutions, be published in the Keene newspapers.

Amos Trickett, Chairman.

C. C. Perry, Secretary.

Dec. 19, 1838.

THE ISSUES.—Our readers will notice the meeting advertised to be held at Concord Jan. 15th. All subscribers to the amount of \$50 are members, and will take part in the organization, as well as in locating the Institution. It may not be amiss to say that the generous sum of Fifteen hundred and fifty Dollars, has been secured in this town towards the \$15,000 required. The Ladies of the two principal Religious Societies have made their Pastors members of the corporation. The small town of Surry has subscribed, perhaps her fair proportion. Are there not some towns in Cheshire where nothing has yet been done? If so, will they not be up and doing?

Jan. 15, 1839.

ANSWER FOR THE ISSUES.—The first annual meeting took place in Concord on Wednesday evening last. It was well attended and a good spirit prevailed. A committee reported that \$17,400 (2,900 more than the sum necessary to secure the grant of the State) was secured by subscription. The corporation proceeded to appoint the eight Trustees on their part. On perceiving their representation that the sum necessary was secured, the Governor gave his assurance that he would transfer the bank shares to the Corporation; and at the request of the Corporation, he has agreed to call together the Council to appoint the four Trustees on the part of the State, on or before the 20th inst. The meeting was adjourned to the 30th, when measures will be taken to fix upon a suitable site for the buildings. Thus far all has gone on well. The Trustees appointed are—

Samuel Dimes and Geo. W. Haven,
William Hale
Joseph Low,
Daniel Abbott,
John H. Steele
Amos Trickett

Portsmouth,
Dover,
Concord,
Nashua,
Peterboro,
Keene.

Dixi Crosby

Charles J. Fox, Nashua.

Hanover

Treasurer.

Dr. Anna Twitchell, of Keene, was Chairman of the meeting, and Charles J. Fox, Esq. of Nashua, Secretary.

Jan. 30, 1839.

INSANE HOSPITAL.—The Governor, Council, &c. have appointed Mr. Quincy, of Rumney, Mr. Peaslee, of Concord, Gov. Badger, of Gilsumdown, and Mr. Conant, of Jaffrey, Trustees, on the part of the State. The Board is now full. The adjourned meeting of the Corporation takes place this day, to amend the by-laws and appoint the location committee. The Concord Patriot has already selected a "central situation," and the Statesman promises that the *Yeomen* will immediately proceed to locate!—They will if the Corporation expose or them to do so, but not without. There are sound reasons why a committee for this purpose should be a select committee, part of our own citizens, and partly of judicious persons from abroad.

Feb. 5, 1839.

INSANE HOSPITAL.—At the adjourned meeting at Concord on Wednesday last, Dr. Anna Twitchell, of this town, was elected President of the Corporation, Isaac Waldron, Esq. of Portsmouth, Vice President, Dr. Dixi Crosby, of Hanover, Secretary and James Thoen, Esq. of Londonderry, Treasurer. Mr. Fox having declined to act permanently.

After a protracted debate to a late hour, the Corporation voted, 195 to 15, to appoint a locating committee, whose decision should be final, and the several gentlemen hereinafter named were chosen by ballot, *viz*:

Within the State.

Dr. Anna Twitchell,

Keene.

Geo. W. Raven, Esq.

Portsmouth.

Charles H. Peaslee, Esq.

Concord.

Out of State.

Dr. L. V. Bell,

head of Charlestown Asy.

Dr. S. B. Woodward,

head of Worcester Asy.

Dr. W. H. Blackwell,

head of Brattleboro Asy.

This is an excellent Committee, competent and as impartial as could be selected; and it becomes all to bow in submission to their decision. We trust no time will be lost, in visiting different parts of the State, that they may be prepared to decide at an early day.

March 1, 1839.

ISSAQUET. For the N. H. Sentinel.

The sixth Annual Report of the Mass. Lunatic Hospital at Worcester, has been received through the kindness of Dr. Woodward. No document could be more interesting. It breathes that spirit of science and philanthropy. It demonstrates that insanity is a disease, or when incurable, yet capable of great modification by proper medical and moral treatment. It points to the causes which are productive of insanity, some of which may be avoided by those forewarned of the consequences. The three highest are Intemperance, Ill Health, and Mortification. 'None can doubt after reading this Report that Insane Hospitals are highly economical, as well as benevolent, institutions for the community; for by curing, and restoring a large proportion of the Insane to usefulness, they save hundreds and thousands of dollars, which would otherwise be spent in maintaining them through long years of wretched and remediless misery. Even those that are past cure can be made comfortable at a Hospital, can enjoy a good degree of health and happiness, and employ themselves so as to diminish very much the expenses of their support. Since this noble institution was put into operation the admissions have been 855, and 544 have been entirely recovered, including both old and recent cases. And numbers that have not been fully restored to reason, have been much improved.—What a triumph of humanity. What an achievement of intelligence and religion over the old system of imprisoning, whipping and freezing! That is a beautiful passage which treats of the effect of religious worship on Sunday upon the diseased intellects of these poor beings. Christ's religion seems to retake Christ's power. "With authority and power he commanded the unclean spirits, and they came out."

May we not hope that our own State will soon see a kindred institution established within her borders, rescuing many from the awful horrors and sufferings of "a mind diseased," and pouring light and comfort into many agonized families.

April 24, 1839.

ISSANE HOSPITAL.—In answer to the numerous inquiries, is reference to the progress making, we now learn that the Locating Committee have had no meeting and probably will not meet at present. On the 20th of Jan. last, there was a meeting of the subscribers of the fund, and others named in the act of

Incorporation, and they proceeded to organize the Institution, by choosing 8 Trustees and other necessary officers. The Governor then being called upon to transfer the State fund, agreed to do so, when the Trustees appointed by the subscribers should fill a certificate that they before the \$15,000 to be raised by individual subscription was subscribed, and would be secured for the object. They did so before they left Concord. The Governor then, by request called the Council together, and on the 20th proceeded to choose four Trustees on the part of the State. The meeting of the Corporation was adjourned to the 30th of January. The organization was then completed, and a committee (3 in the State and 3 out of it) appointed to locate the buildings. Understanding that Dr. Gay, had not taken measures to transfer the State funds into the hands of the Treasurer of the Corporation, measures were taken to secure the individual fund, and nearly \$15,000 of about \$18,000 subscribed, have been paid into the Treasury and put at interest. Still we learn, the State fund has not yet been transferred, and until that fund is secured, the Committee decline to proceed and incur expenses.

May 8, 1839.

DEANE HOSPITAL.—We understand the Secretary of the Trustees has called a meeting of that body—to do what? The Corporation, many think, should be called together before the Legislature convenes. That body may have something to do. The State fund has not yet been transferred.

May 16, 1839.

DEANE HOSPITAL.—There is something in the conduct of the Gov. in this matter that requires explanation, if indeed it is not entirely inexplicable. The terms of the grant are plain and imperative. The moment "satisfactory evidence", is in possession of the Gov. that the sum of \$15,000 has been paid by individuals in aid of the establishment of the Asylum, he is required to issue his orders for the transfer of the State fund. Such evidence, it appears, has been presented. Why then is the bounty of the State withheld?—Why is the work retarded at a season when much progress might be made in putting matters in train for energetic operations hereafter.—

Claremont Eagle.

We learn that a meeting of the Corporation has been called at Concord, on Thursday, first week in June, at 6 P. M. at the request of more than 20 members.

May 22, 1839.

NEW HAMPSHIRE INSANE HOSPITAL.

Extraordinary Proceedings.—As we stated last week, the Pres. of the Corporation forwarded a notice to the editors of the N. H. Patriot, and the N. H. Statesman, to be published in their last papers, for a meeting of the Corporation, to take place in Concord on the first Tuesday in June, in pursuance of a request signed by more than 50 members. One of the subjects to be acted upon was to provide in the by-laws for calling legal meetings of the Trustees, that provision having been accidentally omitted. It was also well known that the Gov. had not transferred the State fund to the Corporation—that all proceedings on the part of the locating committee had in consequence been suspended; and it became necessary, in the view of those who requested the call, to meet and take such action as circumstances might seem to require. Instead of the expected notice, the public are suited with the following "extraordinary" advertisement in the Patriot and Statesman.

"N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE."

The undersigned having been appointed a committee for the purpose of receiving proposals, and to aid the Committee selected by the Trustees to recommend a suitable location for the Asylum, hereby give notice that we are ready to receive all the propositions in relation to the above subject (the terms or individuals chosen to make) and that we will meet at Concord, on Monday evening, May 27, 1839, and on the following day proceed to examine all proposed locations.

All communications to be addressed to Joseph Linn of Concord.

John H. Steele,

Samuel E. Ames,

Joseph Linn,

—Editors of newspapers are requested to copy the above."

The solution we have now, through Col. Steele of Portsmouth, one of the Trustees, who made Keene in his way home, is—that six of the twelve Trustees had held a meeting at Concord, on Thursday; and that (notwithstanding seven in the by-laws are necessary to constitute a quorum) the proceedings indicated in the above notice, were then and there had—thus relieving the three committees then appointed by the Corporation, (in conjunction with the three physicians of neighboring Hospitals) and appointing three of the Trustees—one gentleman in Portsmouth, one in Peterborough, one in Concord, a

kind of advising Committee to assist the three gentlemen out of the State. And it would appear that the whole business may be done up before the Legislature comes together. It is not pretended that there is any legality in this latter movement—it must be sanctioned by a higher authority, and to that authority the six gentlemen will, we learn, confidently appeal. We are likewise informed that individual members of the Trustees "took the responsibility" of requesting the editors not to publish the notice of the Pres., presuming all would be passed and ratified with the assumption of power by the six Trustees.

We shall make no comment or inference at this time, further than to say, we see not how the acts of the Corporation can be nullified by this strange proceeding. The State fund having now been transferred, (done on Thursday last, after the notice of the meeting must have known to be in the hands of the Trustees) the meeting-committee, duly appointed, may now proceed at once. But we know not what course the Chairman of that committee and the Pres. of the Corporation will deem it proper to take. We learn that the meeting of the Corporation will be called in the N. H. Convent, on Friday, to take place on Friday, June 7, at 8, A. M. instead of Thursday, 6th it being necessary to postpone it one day to give the legal (14 day's) notice. Until the power of the six Trustees is acquiesced in by the Corporation, or made legal by some higher authority, the highly responsible portion of the committee out of the State, will not, we suspect, proceed to "recommence." By the vote of the corporation, the action of *their* committee is to be tried.

We understand the Treasurer presented evidence that about \$11,000 of the \$25,000 required (and \$12,000 subscribed) had been secured.

Gov. Bell, we understand, was elected a Trustee of the Insane Hospital, at the last meeting, in place of Gov. Rogers, resigned. There are now 3 Trustees in Concord.

May 25, 1855.

INSANE HOSPITAL.

The NASHUA GAZETTE, speaking of the late meeting of the six Trustees of the Insane Hospital, remarks that "the best feelings exist among all concerned." This is necessarily a false inference. Five out of the six concerned, were, doubt-

less, in favor of locating the Hospital at Concord, and events have thrown a majority of the 12 most probable into that scale. But we contend that the *sole power*, in the Charter, is in the Corporation, and we are sure to see members of the Board of Trade contending for this power. If the Corporation choose to annul their former proceedings, and surrender their power we have nothing to say. We perceive by the Portsmouth Gazette, that that town will present strong claims for the location. Keene, also, has claims which, in the view of her own citizens, at least, should not be disregarded; and we shall urge them, as soon as the (or a) legally constituted board is ready to decide a question so important. The new advisory committee advertise that the committee of location, (out of the State) will be called on shortly to "recommend" a suitable site!—and we learn they have been notified to attend, for this purpose, at Concord, on the 5th of June, by John H. Steele, Chairman of the committee to receive proposals. Now Keene (and probably other towns) may not even be heard from, and it would seem that the Trustees, disregarding entirely the legal proceedings of the Corporation, assume the authority to regard or disregard the "recommendation" of the three gentlemen from abroad. This proceeding, this usurpation, (for we may as well call things by their right names) is not exactly calculated to insure "the best feelings amongst all concerned."

Suppose the committee from abroad recommended a site which does not meet the views of the Trustees? They give us to understand they are not bound by it, but will disregard it, and do the thing up in their own way? We have seen much of party proceedings in our day, but were wholly unprepared for this.

Six gentlemen not even a quorum assume the power granted to another body, and some of them proceed to advise the printers, under the impression that "the best feelings exists amongst all concerned," not to publish notices of a meeting called according to law, as required by 55 members of the Corporation! By the Charter, notice must be given in a Concord paper.

There are good reasons, not proper perhaps to urged now, why the claims of Keene should be fairly and candidly weighed. Her citizens are liberal, and appreciate the importance of increasing the fund for this most noble object.

The impression that if not located at Concord, where all State taxes are distrained, we may as well have no Hospital, will do well enough, as an argument, by the citizens of Concord; but should not be convincing to others, unless this more central position is fortified by other and more weighty considerations.

A letter from Concord, in the last *Champlain Eagle* says:

"The Asylum for the Insane will be located at Concord. The Trustees have decided that the power is with them to locate and the three Doctors out of the State are only to *advise*, not to *locate*. The six loco-foco Trustees and Gen. Lane on the part of the Corporation, will be for Concord, *Mark Ball!* The whole concern will yet be completely under the control of party. More of this 'hereafter.'"

The Concord Courier thinks that town has many advantages over any other, but is "very far from wishing this desirable end by *unfair means*, or *violating* the rights of others." It says truly, that the late act of the *St.* "makes the three members of the committee residing out of the State merely *advisors* to the Trustees, as to the location of the Asylum. The Trustees claim, and intend to *exercise* the right of locating, while the public at large are given to understand that the three gentlemen at the heads of Asylums out of the State are to *locate* the institution.

It may be totally useless to offer inducement for a location out of Concord to a body, with a majority decided in their views, even if they had any legal power to act on the question. We have published the call for a meeting of the Corporation, and hope there will be a *full personal attendance*. To the decision of that body we bow in submission, whatever it may be. It may be proper further to remark, that the \$15,000 would never have been raised, on any other principle than that the location should be decided by a competent and impartial committee. Such was the committee appointed by the Corporation—three out of the State, presuming to have no partiality, but looking solely to the greatest good of the institution—and the three associates, from the three great divisions of the State the most interested. The Corporation will, we trust, insist on this—they must, in justice to the contributors. If this power be taken from them, it becomes a State institution, to be managed by the party in power. As such, the funds should be wholly State funds.

[A meeting of 25 members of the Corporation was held in Portsmouth, on Thursday last. Samuel Hale, chairman. The meeting adopted a preamble and resolutions, in view of the proceedings of the six Trustees. One of the resolutions calls imperatively for a meeting of the Corporation. The bill, it will be seen, has been complied with by the Press, at the institution, in pursuance of the previous request.]

[We are somewhat surprised to see in the Statesman, a 1000 attempt to apologize for the Gov.'s neglect in transferring the State fund until the present time. He made out, it seems, the certificate of transfer "as soon as the necessary evidence of the subscription secured had been presented." The Trustees on the part of the State were appointed, (20th of Jan. last) and he gave it to one of the Trustees! This is a singular way of transferring State property to an incorporated institution, with a Treasurer, to say the least. But a further justification is attempted, by a most singular statement, that at a subsequent meeting of the Corporation, measures were taken for the appropriation of the fund (by appointing a committee to lease the buildings.) "The Trustees were not allowed to represent the subscription of the State!" We ask if the Trustees did not sit with others, and if the Corporation were not present? If so, the State was duly represented.

We are not surprised at the Patriot's view of the subject. If the "satisfactory evidence" required had not been produced, why was the transfer made out last Jan., and placed in the hands of a Trustee? The evidence was self-evident: all that the Gov. required; yet the transfer was not made; and to put it out of all doubt, by advice of the officers of the Corporation, the Treasurer requested the subscribers to secure the money. The Patriot says "there are no difficulties in the way now." If there are not secured to the "tranquil and necessary motive of promoting the interest of a village or town perhaps upon the borders or in one corner of the State." All the subscribers upon the borders and in the recesses of the State, will, we then the impartial committee appointed to take no permitted to use their judgment. Is this reasonable?

[The notice in the Statesman, too late to be legal, of the meeting of the Corporation, should concern, at least, to the several offices in the County.]

For the N. H. Spectator,

N. H. Asylum for the Insane.

Meane Editors, —

I perceive that a difference of opinion exists in regard to the powers possessed by the Corporation, and by the Trustees, of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane. Some believe that the power to decide where the Hospital shall be located is vested in the Corporation, others, that it is given to the Trustees. To enable me to form an opinion for myself, I have examined the acts of the incorporation, and this examination has left no doubt on my mind that the power was given by the act to the Corporation.

In the second section, it is enacted that the "Corporation may receive, purchase, and hold lands, subscriptions of money, &c. to be used and improved for the erection, support and maintenance of an Asylum for the Insane, and to manage, exchange and convey the same as may be necessary to effect the objects" of the institution. The power to purchase land for the erection of the Asylum seems to imply necessarily the power to decide what land shall be purchased, and where it shall lie. No power to purchase or receive land or money, or to use or improve either is given to the Trustees; and if they should decide that the Hospital should be erected at Concord, and the Corporation should purchase no land there, their decision must be nugatory. And it would not alter the case if land there, or any where else, should be offered gratuitously for that purpose, for the Corporation are not bound to receive it, and might be of opinion that a site given at one place was not eligible as one which could be purchased elsewhere.

In regard to the power of the Trustees, the following extract, from the third section, comprises every word in the act conferring power on them: "The said Asylum shall be under the direction and management of a board of Trustees consisting of twelve." Nothing is said here about the location or erection of a Hospital—that had been provided for before; the plain import of the words is, that the Hospital, after it has been erected, shall be under the direction and management of the Trustees; they by virtue of the act, can exercise no power, until the Asylum has been erected and placed in a condition to require their "directing and management." Besides, it is unusual, in acts of incorporation, to give such power to trustees, or directors, or any other

officers of the Corporation; it cannot be given to them by implication, but only by clear, definite and unambiguous expressions, meaning that and nothing else; for they are but servants of the Corporation.

A. B.

June 12, 1839.

N. H. AYLUM FOR THE ISSUAE.—We are glad to learn from Concord that the difficulties arising from the conflicting action of the Trustees and Corporation are happily settled. Mr. Haven on behalf of the committee for locating the Institution, made a verbal report in answer to a call for information. He stated the reason why the committee, appointed by the Corporation in Jan. last, had made no progress. —After remarks of a conciliatory character from several gentlemen, deprecating any action to put at hazard the success of the Institution, a committee consisting of three from the Corporation and three from the Trustees was appointed to recommend resolutions and a course of action to heal all dissensions.

The committee reported, and their report was adopted with good unanimity. The three medical gentlemen out of the State, by this arrangement, constitutes the sole locating committee, and their decision, or the decision of two of them, is final. The three gentlemen formerly appointed with the State, and the three recently appointed at the late informal meeting of the board of Trustees, are now constituted, by the act of the Corporation, a committee to receive proposals and otherwise aid the locating committee. This arrangement will put a stop to further legislation, and will, we suppose give general satisfaction.

Mr. Atherton of Amherst was elected by the Corporation at an adjourned meeting in the evening, a Trustee, in place of Mr. Hale of Dover, who declined. We may now confidently expect that the location will be promptly decided upon and the necessary buildings commenced the present season.

June 19, 1839.

N. H. AYLUM.—The Statesman says the towns desirous of furnishing a location for this Institution, are making very liberal offers for the purchase of land and erection of buildings. We see, however, that the town of Putnamville defies all competition, by offering, at a legal town meeting, all

their surplus money amounting to \$21,000, provided the Asylum is located there*—and also that the Legislature will pass an act permitting the transfer.

July 5, 1853.

LETTER FROM CONCORD.

Yesterday, the bill amendatory to the act chartering the Asylum for the Insane, was taken up in the Senate. The indications were too plain to be mistaken that the bill must pass. The late Gov.'s Message at the commencement of the session was committed to a select committee; but for nearly a fortnight nothing was heard from them. At length Mr. Gore (not of the committee) gave the usual notice that he should introduce a bill, &c. The bill was word for word as recommended in the Message. Mr. Prentiss called on the Committee in vain—he then called on the Senate or from No. 10 (Mr. Gore) to offer some plea, for bringing forward this bill, so disturbing the harmony which now existed.

Mr. G. had nothing to say, it became necessary to give a concise history of facts. This Mr. P. did, to show that whatever remains existed when this Message was prepared and sent to the Legislature, there could now be none, if that compromise was sincere on the part of certain members of the Board of Trust. Finding however, that nothing would satisfy short of transferring off the power reserved, in the act of incorporation, including the locating, and the power to break up the compromise—in fact to accept or reject the decision of the committee last appointed. Mr. P. offered an additional section, authorizing and requiring the Treasurer to refund the money paid to any one making application previous to the 30th of Sept. next, or cancel any note or subscription. The bill was amended and then laid on the table. On Friday, Mr. P., on reflection, withdrew this amendment, and offered a proviso, to the principle section that nothing in this act should be construed to interfere with the compromise between the Board of Trustees and the Corporation which was effected on the 7th, by which the location of the Asylum was left to the final decision of the three neighboring Supts., of Insane Asylums, and that should any circumstances prevent such decision, that question should still be submitted to an impartial committee out of the State, to be agreed on by the Trustees on the one part and the Pres. of the Corporation

on the other, Mr. Brown (No. 5) advocated this proviso, as did Dr. Adams, in a very able manner. Mr. Loughton opposed it, with his usual vehemence. Mr. P. stated that 9 of the 12 Trustees had openly expressed their satisfaction with the compromise, giving their names—(and can now add another, Dr. Crosby)—that of the two remaining, one (Mr. Olcott) had been absent on a long journey, and this left one, Mr. Hill, as the only advocate of this high-handed proceeding! If the members of the Board were sincere, they could not object to the proviso. The proviso was, however, rejected 9 to 3, and the bill passed, 10 to 2. Mr. Brown, although *willing* to adopt the proviso, appeared very willing to get back again into the ranks, as if any division was too dangerous. The bill has gone down to the House, all action on the part of their committee having been suspended.

Before the bill passed, its principal advocate openly declared its object to be to give the Board of Trust the power to disregard the decision of the compromising committee, if they disliked it. That there has been disgraceful double-dealing, I have not a doubt. The public hearing on the questions whether Portsmouth shall be allowed to give her fund, and whether the State will, in any event, lend her credit for internal improvements, is put off till Wednesday next, so that the Legislature cannot, I think, rise before Saturday.

July 19, 1853.

Two of the hearing-committee for the N. H. Asylum of the Insane, Drs. Woodward and Rockwell, accompanied by two of the committee of the State, Dr. Twitthell and Col. Steele, examined the sites in this town, on Tuesday, and proceeded this morning to the more central parts of the State, where they hope to be joined by Dr. Bell.

Sept. 10, 1853.

The Trustees of the Insane Asylum meet today at Concord. The Patriot says the proceeding of going about to examine sites, was "a farce," and that "their mind was made up before they started"—that one wished to get it located as far as possible from Bridgewater, another was for Portsmouth, knowing there was but little intercourse between the interior and that town compared to Boston and Charlestown—that just water to be carried into the third story was a site you can every where but at Portsmouth, &c. &c.

The matter so far as Dr. Bell is concerned, we conceive has

no foundation, as the Hospital at Charlestown is always crowded and needed for State accommodations so at Brattleboro; it is the nearest for the whole State of Vt. and being of limited extent Dr. R. could hardly be supposed to be actuated by such a selfish principle. The other advantages must we acknowledge, be greater than we had supposed, to overcome the expense and inconvenience of raising water, if "pure and soft," by steam power. That four at least of the Trustees will use their efforts to reverse the decision, we feel well assured, and they may succeed in gaining over a majority. But we will not anticipate evil—for success would prove an *evil* indeed.

Oct. 25, 1837.

N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.—*One word more.*

When the Trustees were to be chosen—8 by the Corporation, and 4 to be added by the Board of Visitors, there was but one professed desire; viz: that the management of the institution should be entirely free from party politics. The location of the institution was by the charter supposed to be in the Corporation exclusively. No doubts on this subject were expressed when the Trustees were chosen. The Board of Visitors consisted of Gov., Council, Pres. of the Senate, and Speaker of the House; all of one political party. The Corporation therefore made choice of six of one political party, and two of the other, leaving the Board to choose their four, as a matter of course, from the ranks of their political friends, that the Board might be equally divided. But here, exception was taken at once. The *laissez-faire* party wanted the Corporation to choose 4 to 4, and leave the choice of the other 4 to the *omnipotence* of the Hon. Isaac Hill and his friends, without even an honorary individual pledge to carry out the principle. Now what was the next course of the Board of Visitors? Mr. Pousley of Concord is appointed one of the four; and to this no objection could be made on account of his residence, as two had been chosen in Portsmouth by the Corporation—but at this time a portion of the Trustees assumed the authority to locate the institution—the Gov. withheld the State fund—Gov. Badger was induced to resign, and the Board of Visitors, Hon. Isaac Hill at its head, elected a *third* member of the board of trust—in the person of the Hon. Isaac Hill!! Then followed the usurpation; that of assuming the principle that the location should be invested in

the board of trust.—The five or six only, who convened, appointed a new committee to recommend a site, and the Board of Visitors, on condition that their head man would graciously condescend to do what was his duty to have done long before, and which he pledged himself to do on certain conditions, (fulfilled within 24 hours after the requirement) —Directed the head man to apply to the Legislature for new powers. The full history of our State disgrace, of *Asylum judges*, to feed the appetite of certain Assembly men, is before the public. The subscribers to the fund have done their duty. The unfortunate insane are the sufferers.

There is little doubt but Mr. Hill's chicanery will leave the sufferings of the insane of our State unmitigated for the present age.

Portsmouth Journal

The reason why Dr. Crosby moved a reconsideration of the vote by which the report of the locating committee was rejected, we understand was this: that as he had, on two previous occasions voted to leave the whole matter of location unconditionally to the committee and of the State, he could not now conscientiously vote to reject their report. (Can any one give a reason why Dr. Crosby voted not to accept the report, pledged as he was?) There are other members of the board who are in the same predicament—in regard to their votes, and it is a pity they were not so in regard to the matter of conscience also. Gov. Hill, we are told, played the part of a villain on the occasion, whose insane ravings went further than anything else to convince every member present of the imperative necessity of having the Asylum established at once and on the spot!

Chambersburg Eagle.

Dr Crosby has at length officially published the proceedings of the late meeting of the Trustees of the N. H. Asylum. Mr. Harvey's report was correct. This brought out the Secretary.

Nov. 8, 1851.

ISSANE ARTICLE.—ANXIOUS.

Insane Asylum.—The official report of the proceedings of the Trustees of the Asylum, at their late meeting at Concord, at which the report of the locating committee was rejected, has at last been published. It does not differ materially from that furnished in the statement of Mr. Harvey's

which we published a week ago. The following is the report of the locating committee:—

To the Trustees of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane:

The committee appointed to fix upon a location for the N. H. Asylum for the Insane at a final meeting held at the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester, this 30th of July 1839: Report that they have examined the various places pointed out to them by the committee of the Trustees, and after mature deliberation do decide that said Asylum be located at Portsmouth, on condition offered by said town. They further report that the spacious and splendid mansion known as the Catts house as being in every respect calculated for the central edifice of an Insane establishment, and thus saving a heavy outlay of money; and the thirty acres of land now connected with the same is the most eligible situation for said Asylum. Provided said house and land can be obtained for a sum not exceeding \$5,000, and that not less than 50 additional acres of land adjoining can be acquired at a price not exceeding \$200 per acre. Provided that the road on the north side of said house shall be so changed in its direction and a sufficient quantity of land obtained to allow a wing to be added on the north side of the house.

They also report and decide that in case said Catts house and additional land, and said change in the road cannot be obtained, that the most suitable place is the Freeman Farm, so called,—provided not less than 60 acres of land can be obtained, of the portion adjoining the river and running back to the highest point of land on the same, at a price not exceeding \$300 per acre.

They likewise decide that in case neither of the preceding places can be acquired, that the said Asylum be placed on the Hall farm, near the Cemetery in Portsmouth, provided that not less than 60 acres of the same can be had at a price not exceeding \$300 per acre.—They therefore determine and decide that one of these places, having regard to the order in which they are above preferred, in the said town of Portsmouth, be the location of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane.

Which is respectfully submitted.

Samuel B. Woodward.

William H. Rockwell.

Luther V. Bell.

From the Nashua Telegraph.

The following letter has been addressed by a minority of the Board of Trustees of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane, to the Board of Location.

To Luther V. Bell, Esq., Physician and Supt. of the Me. Lunatic Asylum for the Insane in Charlesstown; S. B. Woodward, Esq., Supt. and Physician of the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester; and Wm. H. Rockwell, Supt. and Physician of the Vt. Asylum for the Insane:

Gentlemen: Disappointed and mortified by the manner in which your Report for the location of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane has been treated by the Board of Trustees, of which we are in a minority, we feel it is due to you as well as ourselves, that you should be put in possession of the circumstances under which you were appointed; and that you should feel assurance of our request that your report in favor of Portsmouth was not immediately and unhesitatingly accepted and carried into effect by an unanimous vote.

The subscriptions constituting members of the Corporation had been made with a view to the location of the Asylum. There were undoubtedly local feeling and perhaps prejudice on this subject. The Corporation believing that the power of location was vested in them by the charter, elected their eight Trustees, being two-thirds of the Board, without any regard to that question. A majority of the Board when formed, saw fit to claim the right of location. How were these clashing interests and claims of power to be reconciled? From the first it was foreseen that there would be a diversity of views and feeling upon the subject. For the preservation of harmony therefore, in such a charitable and noble enterprise, it was early proposed and became generally understood that the site of the Asylum should be determined by an impartial committee from without the State, and who were acquainted with, and take an interest in the wants of the Insane.

In June last the Corporation at a very full meeting of its members from every part of the State, manifested their willingness to submit the final decision to such a committee, with the understanding that such was also the wish of the Trustees, who had their meeting at the same time and place. The Corporation accordingly voted that you should be the committee, and that your report should be conclusive. The Board ap-

pointed the same committee with a vote that your report should be final and conclusive. These votes were unanimous in both bodies. Expressions of satisfaction were universal. The opposing parties congratulated each other that the threatening appearances of division had been happily dissipated by these concurrent votes. That your report would be cordially acquiesced in did not appear to be doubted by any one.

Judge, then, gentlemen, of our surprise, when on a meeting of eleven of the twelve Trustees, Josiah Quincy, Esq. being absent, in Sept. last it was found that these pledges and votes were not to be regarded—that the question of location was considered as still open—that no vote confirming our report could be obtained, and that these would prefer to have the whole clearly defeated, rather than have the location at Portsmouth. They would throw away the \$25,000, offered at Portsmouth, reducing the capital from \$55,000, a sufficient sum to put the Institution into successful operation, down to \$30,000—a sum inadequate for that purpose—and look to the State to make up the deficiency, by a direct tax on the people. Independently of this great and essential increase of the fund, by a location at Portsmouth, there are other circumstances favorable to that place that might well have given to it your preference. It happens that three of the Trustees reside in Concord—they speak of a more central location, by which they mean Concord, and no other place, as if the territorial centre of such an Institution was to control all other considerations, and even the existence of the Institution itself.

You who feel a deep interest in the condition of the insane, and would rejoice to see them released from the prisons, dungeons and chains in which they are now suffering in this State, will deeply regret with us, that the charity, which was to give them relief, is by a Board of Trustees, established for their benefit, postponed to a future and distant day. But it is not the delay only that alarms and grieves us—the charity itself is put in jeopardy and threatened with annihilation.

There seems to us something so extraordinary in these proceedings of the Trustees, we have felt anxious to assure you, that so far as we have been concerned, either as Trustees or members of the corporation in submitting the question of location to you, we voted in good faith, with a view to harmony, and with a determination to be governed by your decision. We had no idea of requesting of you the performance

of a vain and idle labor, or of converting that which was intended for lunacy and the best interests of the insane, into an occasion for protracting their suffering, or a cause of disagreement and contention.

With these views and feelings, gentlemen, we ask you to accept the assurance of our continued esteem, respect and confidence.

Amos Titchell,
George W. Haven,
C. H. Atherton,
Daniel Abbott.

Oct. 21, 1839.

[All the evils attendant upon this disgraceful business might have been prevented had the Corporation been aware that the Trustees would claim and assume the power to control the location. But, as we have before observed, they were selected with reference only to the permanent management of the Asylum, and so composed equally of the two political parties. Now how does it so happen that the six democratic members (presuming that Mr. Quincy if present, would have voted with the majority) with Gen. Low, (residing in Concord) have forfeited the pledge of the Trustees in June, as a body, to abide by the decision of the committee agreed upon and individuals of the same body have disregarded subsequent pledges, made before the committee visited Portsmouth? The Board of Visitors, very improperly, appointed two residing in Concord, in addition to Gen. Low, and it seems the three, with three others, have done the mischief. We ought to have expected nothing else from some of them, but we confess we did not expect to find Gen. Low supporting this utter disregard of pledges. Without his vote, the report of the committee could not have been rejected, and with it, it would have been accepted.]

EXTRACTS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PATRIOT.

Is it expedient for the State to grant an APPROPRIATION TO BUILD AN INSANE HOSPITAL?

The facts which will enable the citizens of this State to answer this interrogation understandingly and correctly, (which they are by resolution of their Legislature called upon to do at the next November election,) are comprised under the following questions:

1. What is the number and condition of the Insane at present within our borders?
2. What change and amelioration in their number and situation would consequently result from such an institution?
3. What would be the actual cost of such an establishment? and upon whom would the cost fall? The first of these inquiries is pretty extensively examined in the report of the Special Committee on the Insane to the House of Representatives, at the June session. The following is an abstract of the reported returns:

In 14 towns with 173,778 inhabitants, there were 312 insane persons; in 20 towns with 19,726 inhabitants, there were no insane; the remaining towns which have not far from 85,431 inhabitants made no returns. If they actually have as great a

proportion as the places heard from, the number of insane in the State would be 402.

The Committee, however, believing that so much negligence in making returns would not have existed if each town were so unfortunate as to have the expense and trouble of insane paupers, and desirous of placing the estimate at a safe amount have judged that there are only 350 in the State, and that of these 120 or 30 are from the recent seizure or the violence of their disorder, subjects for the aid of an insane asylum; that this number could all be cured or ameliorated, while in their present state no change for the better can possibly be expected.

The number reported as confined including all in jails, cages, cells, chains, handcuffs, strongrooms &c. &c. was eighty-one. The number of insane paupers supported at public charge was 152; this number supported in part by the public, by their own means, by their friends or in part by their own labour was 100.

From a publication of some additional statistics drawn from the same returns by one of the committee, it would appear that almost all the 312 cases are constantly and actually insane; idiots, imbeciles, occasional derangements not having been included. The number of males, as far as the sex was distinguished was 146; of females 156. The ages as far as reported viz. in 184 persons, were as follows: Under 20 years, 1; from 20 to 30, 24; from 30 to 40, 35; from 40 to 50, 59; from 50 to 60, 37; from 60 to 70, 52; from 70 to 80, 14; from 80 to 90, 3.

The duration of the insane state as far as particularized, viz. in 221 cases was as follows: (many other cases being returned as "long insane," "many years deranged" &c.) Under 6 months, 18;—from 1 to 2 years 11; from 2 to 3, 10; from 3 to 4, 15; from 4 to 5, 16; from 5 to 10, 11; from 10 to 20, 6; from 20 to 30, 21; from 30 to 40, 18; from 40 to 50, 7; from 50 to 60, 2; the average of all cases being somewhat more than 18 and a half years.

So much for the numbers. The condition of the insane is a subject which cannot be elucidated in a few words;—in fact one half of its horrors is not known, even to those who have been most interested in acquiring the facts: the public know, it may truly be said, nothing on this subject; they can bear no adequate conception of its realities. The simple statement that 81 citizens of New Hampshire, at least are known at the

present day to be in jails, chains, handcuffs, strongrooms etc. and an appeal to the reader to think on the situation of any insane person he ever saw confined, will perhaps give some idea of their condition. Confined, chained, manacled! and for what? for crime? no, for bodily disease, for the dispensation of Providence.

Ye who are shedding tears on the condition of the slave, look here! ye who send dollar after dollar, to civilize the barbarians, to christianize the savage, regard some four hundred of your fellow citizens, around your own homes, grovelling in a degree of darkness, of degradation, of desolation without a parallel amongst heathen.

Ye would not surely permit this solicitation in christianity, this misplacement of charity except from one cause,—this is ignorance of the fact, hereafter to be pointed out that these wretches, whom you have believed too low to be raised or assisted, are capable of being civilized, of being made moral, accountable agents in a vast deal higher proportion than the savage of our own or foreign lands.

You would feel that you were accomplishing much if one tenth of the inhabitants of the islands of the Pacific could under your Missionaries be made civilized beings, knowing right from wrong, good from evil. Come with me presently and I will show you some seven out of ten degraded brutes restored to more or less reason, accountability, and happiness. The mental state of the entire body of insane and especially the insane paupers can be deduced from a few instances observed, for in a community like ours, similar circumstances will be met nearly in the same way. A town having a curing maniac has but a single course to pursue; the way this must be effected will depend on the character, strength, or ferocity of the subject and the conveniences of the town. There is no inhumanity to be presumed.

Necessity, the preservation of the lives and peace of the public, require the insane to be secured; this must be done and is done perhaps generally as well as possible out of an institution expressly made for this purpose. A single instance which has fallen under the notice of the writer within the last 24 hours will give some idea of the ordinary condition of the insane pauper. Being called professionally to an almshouse, a most lamentable and pitiable groaning was heard from a corner of the room. Application was made to the overseer for

permitted to see the "crazy man" who, we learned, was confined there.

He took the key from a nail, and went out a distance of near 20 rods to the barn through the barnyard, opened a padlock on the hovel door, (a place made to keep a cow and calf, etc.) and ushered us in; on looking around at first the tenant could not be seen, but he was soon noticed in a corner doubled up in an incredibly small space, his knees being in contact with his chin, a tow shirt alone covering him, which the keeper said had just been put on him and which would last him about ten hours. He was looking out through a crack in his tenement, groaning and lamenting piteously his condition, beseeching us with tears streaming over his cheeks to take him away.

On enquiring whether he could not stand up or walk, we were informed that for about a year his position had been so little changed that his joints had stiffened as we now saw them, and would probably always remain so; assuredly they will, if he continues in his present situation. A hole was cut through the partition to hand in his food, which was done without his being seen; a parcel of straw was thrown a - out on which he laid.

In the winter he is removed to the house, in which however his dreadful habits and hideous cries rendered him the greatest trial to the other inmates, many of whom, besides the overseer's family were worthy, aged, though reduced people. His age I was told was about fifty; had been insane seven years without any effort for his restoration. His constitution was unbroken and unimpaired, and if his limbs should not prove permanently fixed, capable so far as bodily power is concerned, of doing a full day's labour. There is every probability that the town will be burdened with his support at least 20 years longer, at an annual expense of not less than one hundred and fifty dollars per annum.

Here is a case occurring in a town noted for opulence, the intelligence and the liberality of its citizens; a town from which hundreds of dollars go away every year to the benevolent societies of the day, to spread light and civilization and religion across the ocean. Probably nineteen twentieths of the citizens know respecting this individual only this; that he is crazy and that he is necessarily confined;—the taxpayers also think once a year, at least that he is a consider-

able expense. *Et uno diee cunctis*. This single case is probably a fair example of the kindest, most expedient course possible under such circumstances; there is no inhumanity in it, for it is the best course they can take.

Contrast this man, (for a few minutes, discourse with him, will convince you that he is still a man,) a few months after he shall have resided in an Insane Hospital, with the wretch whom we saw. You shall find him clean, comfortable if not happy, his limbs probably restored, and if so, capable and desirous of doing an amount of labour equal to the support of himself and at least of two others; if still insane on what is now the only subject of his derangement, for he is monomaniac merely, yet manageable and safe, sitting at a table to eat instead of feeding literally like the swine, reading his Bible or the newspaper; on the Sabbath dressed with cleanliness, listening with attentive propriety to the gospel, uniting in the daily worship of the family, with his careworn, haggard, tearful countenance changed to the expression of content.

This is the last improved condition in which you will find him; perhaps you will find him "sitting and clothed in his right mind." Is this a fancy sketch?

Visit any insane asylum in this country and you shall see its often repeated parallel; read the report of any such institution and you will be convinced that these happy results are so far from being exceptive to the general rule, that in fact the unimproved condition of a lunatic in a proper asylum is an exception truly rare.

In the same poor-house our attention was called to a female confined in a chamber: she had been insane at intervals for 25 years; for a considerable number of months, some years ago, before a poor-farm was purchased, she was so violent that a strong man was employed to guard her at \$1.00 per day, chains not being enough. She is now confined all the time when insane, for security, and in her lucid intervals to keep her from absconding. She is strong, healthy, and likely to live to an old age. How surely would her lucid intervals be lengthened, her frantic violence repressed, at a well conducted asylum!

Under the kind, firm discipline, of such an institution, her ability and capacity for useful labour would render her far more than equal to her support and that of one more fe-

male, even if her insanity should remain. I speak of labour, not because I should grind the poor and unfortunate in order to make them support themselves upon whom the hand of Providence has been laid so heavily as to demand all our sympathy and assistance. God forbid! that a question of dollars and cents should stay the hand of duty and mercy.

Employment is referred to only as all modern experience has shown that it is of indispensable value to the restoration of the insane of a population having the working character of the American people.

For views upon this subject the reader is referred to the late "Report on the Insane." These are two cases from a town of about 2000 people having several others has united for an asylum. On referring to their official return to the Legislature it is found that merely the ages, duration of disease and annual cost of these two lunatics, is given. In fact, there is nothing peculiar or extraordinary about them; they are average cases probably of the confined lunatics of this state, except from the character, wealth, pauper arrangements, etc. of the town, they are considered as comfortable as any pauper lunatics are, whilst there is reason to fear that a mode of "selling poor at auction," leading to individual neglect of town officers, render a great many instances throughout the state worse than they ought to be, under even our present circumstances.

Indeed the instances of horrible neglect and even barbarity which have been detailed and unheeded, are wisely passed over by the Legislature Committee, fearing perhaps that the character of our community would suffer more from their exposure than would be recompensed by their effect on the public mind. They have said nothing of several instances of lunatics and idiots burned to death by the straw in their cages being set on fire by themselves, of their losing limbs or lives by extreme cold, etc. etc. These are extreme cases; it is only the general condition and treatment that should affect the public decision on the question before them, and if the public would form a judgement from the best averaged of the 120 or 130 supposed suitable subjects for a hospital alone, the friends of the measure might safely trust in an impartial and critical investigation of such cases.

The next consideration on this subject, is the amount of good which the establishing of an Hospital for the Insane

will effect.

This good consists first, in the cure of the Lunatic, thus restoring him to station and duties in society, and replacing his ability to support himself and those dependant on him;—secondly, in the improvement of his condition, the augmentation of his enjoyments and diminution of his sufferings, if not entirely recovered, and the acquisition of the capacity of doing more or less useful labour, tending to relieve the public of a portion of his cost; and, lastly, the security which it affords to the public and to the sufferer against melancholy consequences of his violence and the removal of the heavy burden of care and anxiety which is the unavoidable lot of his friends. There is also, as in the sequel we shall have occasion to enumerate, another advantage in the actually diminished expense of supporting the insane with all the advantages of an asylum compared with the present indefensible mode.

With regard to the absolute incurability of insanity, when treated by physicians under ordinary circumstances, little argument or illustration will be required.

It is admitted by the profession themselves (one society being unanimously petitioners to the Legislature in their behalf,) and has for half a century nearly, been laid down as a fundamental axiom.

The public must also be sufficiently aware of this hopelessness of cure, as hardly any individual can recall an example of decided, settled insanity yielding, at home, of itself or under the care of a physician. Another fact exhibits this incurability as well as illustrates another important consideration, viz that the insane are very long-lived.

In the returns to the Legislature of the duration of the insane state, in 221 cases, 117 had been insane between 10 and 40 years, and the entire average was more than 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. If the many others which were returned as "long-insane," "many years deranged" etc. had been specified, the average would have been still greater.

It is believed that it may safely be asserted that one case in fifty recovers in the usual circumstances. Now what is the fact amongst the institutions for lunatics within two or three days' journey of our capital, without referring to more distant or foreign establishments. The "Report" of last June gives some statements, of which the following are the results.

At Bloomingdale, N. Y., in 14 years, 1777 patients were ad-

mitted and of these, 1039 were cured and improved. At Hartford, since 1824, 514 patients were received, 253 of whom had not been insane longer than one year. Of these 253 recent cases, 220 were recovered or nearly 91 per cent; of the remaining 261 old cases, 62 cured or more than 27 per cent. At Charlestown, Mass., from May to December of last year, of 29 recent cases 34 were recovered, and 5 out of 59 old cases. At Worcester 480 cases have been received, since the hospital was opened; 80 per cent of the recent, and 27 per cent of the old subjects, have been entirely restored.

The results of these various institutions, corroborated also by extensive examination into those of France, England and Italy, demonstrate that at least *fifty-sixths* of recent, and more than *one-half* of all cases collectively, are curable by the aids of an Asylum. Trace the consequences of these restorations a step beyond their relation to the individuals returned to their pleasures and duties in society, and without reference to the public, saved from further expense, danger and anxiety on their account.

Watch the influence of their renewed existence on their families, relations, friends, neighborhood, and even on another generation. Calculate the difference between supporting, or rather partially supporting an individual in a lunatic retreat a year or two, and having him a public charge upon a town or county during the 20, 30 or 40 years of a maniac's old age.

But these are not all the benefits conferred by lunatic asylums upon the insane. It is a melancholy fact that after all, a considerable proportion of these long afflicted will remain hopeless, incurable. The prevailing false idea can never be replaced by the true mental operations.

It is obvious, that even if an asylum is forthwith established, a considerable number of years must elapse before this class will be extinct. But betwixt them as inmates around a poor-house, at home, or wandering around the country, and as inmates of a well conducted asylum, the difference is that between light and darkness. For ample and interesting illustrations on this important point, let the reader contrast the histories of a larger number of cases reported in Massachusetts by the Commissioners for erecting a Hospital, with the report of the Trustees and Superintendent on their present condition. A few of these sketches are incorporated into the re-

port to our Legislature and form an extraordinary and striking index to the whole system.

Men confined in dungeons for a quarter of a century, filthy, degraded, frantic, suicidal or homicidal, though still insane have become penitible, industrious and profitable members of that community which has been so wisely established for them, and for which alone they are adapted.

The best refreshing effects of these institutions can only be fully realized by actual inspection. Let us visit such an asylum. Externally we find all order, neatness, and beauty. Its blooming gardens, its highly cultivated fields, its fragrant shrubbery, all the product of the directed labour and taste of its inmates, reminds us of the villa of European wealth and refined taste. Classified and divided into groups and as it were families of such numbers and characters as are best suited to each other's habits, tastes, kind of illusion and capacity of enjoyment we find these inmates in their persons neat and cleanly, in their habits devout and regular, in their conduct patient, civil and inoffensive. Rising early to their moderate labours, their first duties of prayer and praise are directed to that Being, who has inclined the hearts of men to mercy and benevolence. To the native of New England whatever may be his state, education or rank in society, the next spontaneous wish of his heart is for useful, productive labour; the thousand forms in which this is combined with interest and amusement, calling into exercise the pleasures of mechanical ingenuity, the attractions of novel experiment, or the pursuits of the sufferer's early associations, will depend much on the character, zeal and kindness of those having supervision; but in no case is the mind allowed to sink into sullen indifference, to brood over the phantoms of a morbid imagination or to be run into the eccentric, violent, uncontrollable revolutions of an unsupervised intellect. A healthy appetite, undisturbed slumber and bodily health are the natural consequences of moderate, regular corporeal labor combined with manly amusements and relaxation. A plain nutritious diet well adapted to the wants and peculiarities of each class or subject, and a discriminating employment of medicinal agents soon produce that sanity of body so closely connected with mental health, and places the individual in that condition best fitted for the influences of moral treatment.

A few facts will further illustrate the change wrought in the amount of happiness enjoyed by the insane. It is to be presumed that generally the greatest proportion of the inmates of such institutions will be of the most violent and unmanageable description. In the asylum in which the friends support, it is natural that most of those whose safe keeping is practicable and convenient at home, shall, if hopeless of cure, be kept among their friends. In others, like that at Worcester where the selection of subjects is made by the public authorities, it is obvious that the most violent and dreadful cases will generally be preferred, as they ought to be, having a due regard to duration of disease and probability of relief. For example at the last named place, some thirty were taken from dungeons and congested prisons where they had been confined by order of Court as dangerous to go at large. Now in these asylums only five or six in a hundred are required to be kept restrained and perhaps those or most of them at night only. Dr. Macdonald of the Bloomsbury Asylum, in a report to the Common Council of the city of New York, respecting an asylum for the afflicted, ably and ably neglected and degraded insane poor of that great metropolis incidentally remarks thus: "Take 100 insane patients, of that number perhaps five require of night, strong-rooms," &c. Is a plan for an Insane Hospital which the writer has in his possession, made by Dr. Lee the distinguished Superintendent of the Mc Lean Asylum at Charleston designed for 120 or 150 patients, the number of "lodge rooms" or cells, delineated seems to be but ten to meet all contingencies, and in other institutions the proportion is equally small. What a change is this!

What a noble opportunity here for benevolence. "To break the chains of the captive and let the oppressed go free." In this State alone the establishment of a Hospital would be an effort by which more than 75 human beings men, citizens, would be liberated at once. It would be an occasion like the ancient jubilee when the dungeon gates were unbarred.

With the abolishment of chains and confinement, has also passed away the whole iniquitous system of the scourge, the strait-jacket, the handcuffs, and in fact all measures of severity or coercion. The astonishing changes we have witnessed have resulted from the application of the golden law of love alone; kindness united with firmness, indulgence

with systematic performance of duty, lenity, forbearance and gentleness with decision, have accomplished what our forefathers never dreamed to be possible.

The next point of view in which an asylum is now to be considered is as a place of security for the public and the sufferers against the consequences of insane violence. A part only of this relief can be realized in the intense anxieties and fears of friends assuaged, and the apprehensions of neighbors quelled.

Imagine yourself, reader, consigned for a single night only to lodge at a dwelling where the howls of a maniac broke the silence of midnight, and then conceive the situation of a family having to endure such an inmate month after month, year after year.

The last public advantage to be secured by the establishment of an Insane Hospital, the actual economy in expense as contrasted with the present cost of lunatics in the State, will be considered when examining the pecuniary relations of this subject.

The immense public and private advantages offered by the establishment of a Lunatic Hospital being admitted, (and it is believed there are some whose feelings are so perverted as to gainsay or deny them) the next thing to be considered is the expediency of such an Institution being founded in New Hampshire and through the agency of the people themselves collectively.

There are, it is true, many projects of a highly benevolent character, worthy of the highest praise, which while kindly adapted to one people or community would be misplaced and unneeded for in another. Thus the facilities for instructing the deaf and dumb, or the blind are very valuable and commendable; the state does and ever has done itself honor by its liberal patronage; (liberal indeed in proportion to the number of these unfortunate within its borders,) to these charities elsewhere, yet no one would be so absurd as to think of endowing seminaries of these kind in this State.

The unfortunate to be alleviated does not exist to an extent justifying such measures for its relief. Again, other institutions apparently of a benevolent character, have been found to be so in appearance only; they "keep the word of promise to the ear, but break it to the hope." Found-

ling hospitals, almshouses without any employment for the able-bodied, houses of correction, state prisons, etc. where vagabonds and vagabonds are associated night and day without labour, are of this last class. Benevolence may also be misdirected in a thousand ways, and especially towards objects of distant charity, as we have too often reason to fear it is. Is the present object objectionable to these objections? The immense numbers of sufferers requiring assistance, as appears by the official documents, demonstrates that the field for benevolent action is wide enough. Can we send the 120 inmates whose pitiable cases call so loudly for the help of an asylum to foreign institutions as we do one dozen or two of deaf and dumb, and blind? In Massachusetts and Connecticut the institutions are running over in the abundance of their own subjects. At Worcester and Charlestown a large proportion of the applicants are rejected for want of room and they are going on still further to increase the accommodations for their own citizens. In Connecticut measures are in progress, as the writer has within a few days been informed by one of the directors of the Hartford Retreat, to establish an asylum for the insane poor of that state, probably after the model of that of Worcester and in connection with the present Retreat. In Maine and Vermont the institutions established are adequate only to the relief of their most trying necessities. If then our insane are to be provided for it must be by founding an asylum amongst and by ourselves.

Nor can it be pretended that the establishment for the insane can necessarily or even possibly drive any such evils to their trial, as the objectionable charities referred to. So far from augmenting the number of objects for benevolence, they evidently tend to diminish them rapidly, unless the misfortune of insanity be from certain moral and public causes on the human person as in there is too much reason to fear is the case. Old and incurable cases, entailing a long and hopeless burden on society will be constantly wearing away and would eventually be almost reduced to, for as soon as an individual was seized with this dreadful malady he would be placed where his misery would be treated to advantage, and with too much probability of relief as have before seen.

Can this object be effected by individual enterprise or exertion and to these any good reason why it should fall most in-

dividual citizens? Our state fortunately as far as the general good is concerned, has no great commercial advantages,—it presents few fields for magnificent speculations to make men rich in a night;—we have few men of overgrown fortunes.

Wealth is equally divided to a degree probably unknown in the civilized world. If there are any disadvantages in this blessed mean, it is that no splendid gifts of humanity, no noble contributions to the arts and sciences, no magnificent endowments to perpetuate the names and the liberality of the donors can reasonably be effected. In all the public call for funds, however, for any purpose of benevolence real or imaginary, contrast the receipts from New Hampshire with those from any equal amount of population elsewhere, and we shall have no reason to blush for the generosity of our community. If none out of their abundance are able to give abundantly, the disposition to bestow in proportion to means seems spread widely and generally. Everyone appears willing to do his part. For example in the last number of the *Missionary Herald*, just handed the writer, there is acknowledged as having been received from the interior towns in the western section of Rockingham Co., containing about 15,000 inhabitants the sum of \$628, contributed by a single object, and this too an annual and customary donation. If the entire state gives in proportion, and this is probably the fact, here is more than \$15,000 raised for one noble cause annually; more than enough devoted to the single object of foreign missions to build an Insane Hospital every two years!

There seems no reason, however, to doubt that many generous donations may be expected towards this object if it is undertaken. We have an earnest of this in some thousands already promised. But let not this source be depended upon. If there are any whose wealth and generous sympathies concur in wishing well to this object let their donations be gratefully acknowledged and prudently expended. But in the name of all that is noble in humanity, or generous in charity, let us repudiate that miserable system of forced gifts and compulsory volunteered donations which the modern tactics of benevolence have introduced. Reference is made to the plan of contingent donations;—a certain amount being promised, provided another given sum is first secured; or nothing to be collected if a stipulated amount fixed by the supposed duty and ability of the public to be solicited is not secured within a speci-

bad time. The whole system of raising such charities is unworthy the independent people of New Hampshire, and under the operation of this jesuitical scheme some moral frauds have been perpetrated that our citizens would wish to know. No! If our wealthy citizens are inclined to give, let them give freely, unhackled and unconditioned.

"The quality of mercy is not strained;

—It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven

—Upon the place beneath: it is twice blessed,

—It blessing him that gives and him that takes."

This object is by no means a partial or local one. The tax now paid by the public for the insane need only be directed into another and better channel. In the system which will hereafter be suggested, it will be shown—that the public need be called upon only for a first endowment, the simple expense of building and furnishing the edifice of an asylum; that its subsequent support will be secured by the compensation received from those towns, counties and individuals who choose voluntarily to take advantage of its offered benefits.

The expense of this first outfit would not fall unequally or partially. The tax, if the requisite funds should be provided in this manner, would come proportionally from the rich and from those of moderate estate, and its advantages would be open alike to all. If one county or town should not have its full proportion of subjects so much, greater the probability that in a few years the ratio would be reversed. Even should the operation of an asylum be somewhat local and partial (which it would not,) the people would not object if a great public good resulted. We see thousands of dollars distributed year after year in the crown and wild beast bounty; enough in fact to build an asylum every few years. Yet the operation of those laws are local; conferring privileges confined nearly to one class of citizens and to particular sections of the state.

The principle of insane asylums being proper subjects for the fostering hand of a state government has been settled and acted upon in all the states around us. New York as long ago as 1826, when its population was not more than half what it now is granted the sum of \$10,000 annually for the support of a lunatic asylum. Massachusetts devoted \$20,000 for the hospital at Worcester; Maine has recently given \$20,000 to this object, and had not an individual who by sudden

turn of land speculations became immensely wealthy, given an equal sum, that patriotic state would doubtless have taken the office into her own hands. Connecticut long since did her duty to her insane, and Vermont has already an institution in successful operation. New Hampshire, it is believed, is the only one of the northern states, which has not done anything towards this cause. The time has almost arrived when the question is to be tested—whether or not she will also engage in this work; a question, the decision of the people upon which, will be final for a great number of years, perhaps for half a century. It is certain that so favorable a period of general prosperity, such an overflowing abundance of pecuniary ability can hardly be again looked for, united with that freedom from political or sectional asperity which has hitherto preserved this subject from all unnatural entanglements.

After even a feeble expression of public sentiment at the ballot-box against the expediency of building an asylum, it cannot be expected that the legislature will take any further action until they are convinced that there is a decided change in public opinion, and even should that change be evidently brought about, as it surely should be, it might then be found that one or the other branch of the Legislature might be behind the public voice and opposed to the object. As it now is there seems to be no obstacle, if the expression of the wish of our citizens is in its favor. Executive after executive has recommended and urged the measure. The willingness of the present legislature to lay the facts collected by their direction before the community as well as to refer the decision of the point to their judgment, is ample confirmation of their willingness to act. The entire facts necessary for a wise and conscientious action will be before the voters, and when they meet it is to be hoped, that all will express their opinion whether for or against this measure; that they will vote as they would do were the four or five hundred inmates of New Hampshire present before them. In our text the attempt will be made to compare the present actual expense of taking care of the insane with what it would be if the most proper subjects were collected into a Lunatic Hospital, deducing the conclusions from the official returns made by the selectmen and overseers of the poor to the towns and from the authentic published dates of similar establishments in neighboring states. If our facts are duly collected and candidly canvassed (and we entreat the public attention to investigate their accuracy

and fairness) the intelligent voter of New Hampshire will be gratified in admitting that the proposed Insane Hospital will be desirable not only on account of its abstract advantages to the insane, but even as a matter of public economy.

It is impossible to ascertain the exact amount expended in the support of the insane under the present mode. The most that can be expected is an approximation towards the fact. In many cases the sufferers are kept in poor houses in common with the entire pauper population of a town, of course, no estimate only of their proportion of the expenses can be made. Others are "sold at auction" and "bid off" by some friend or relation, who feels willing to bear part of their support beyond the pittance paid by the public; some are capable of doing something towards their own support and the balance is paid by the town. So that it is probable that in many instances the returns represent the amount expended actually below the cost. Taking them however as we find them, the following results appear. The specific facts are given somewhat in detail, for minute accuracy alone renders statistics of the kind of any value. The actual and estimated expense is given in 104 cases of the 318 heard from, of these three were maintained at \$20 per annum; 1 at \$25; 4 at \$30; 1 at \$35; 1 at \$37; 4 at \$39; 5 at \$40; 1 at \$42; 5 at \$45; 1 at \$49; 8 at \$50; 11 at \$52; 2 at \$60; 1 at \$65; 6 at \$75; 1 at \$80; 1 at \$82; 1 at \$89; 8 at \$100; 2 at \$104; 1 at \$130; 8 at \$135; 1 at \$150; 20 at \$155; 1 at \$200; 1 at \$208; 1 at \$254; making an average of \$91.50 per annum for each individual. The estimate made by the late Gov. Dinwiddie in 1832, (when the expense of living was somewhat less than at present,) from the comparatively small number of returns which have been made, was in round numbers \$1.50 per week, or \$78 per annum. It is probable that the present returns making the cost \$1.75 per week are very near the truth. The kind of support, attention and kindness that these children of misery receive us have alluded to, and our surprise is rather that the average cost is so much than that it should be so small. Now let us examine the expense at Worcester, the only asylum established on such general grounds as would be expected or desired here. For two years 1834 and 1835, the annual average cost of each patient was found to be \$2.50 per week. This included every expense of maintaining the hospital. But in a new arrangement for separating into another building the incurables, it is stated in the annual report to the Legislature of Massachusetts that the expense of this

class would be reduced to \$150, which if the numbers were equal would render the average of all \$2. In comparing some of the leading items of cost then with what they could be in the interior of our state, we can determine with some accuracy the proportionate decrease of expense. By the report of 1834 we find amongst other items of expenditure which are given very much in detail, that there were consumed at that establishment 11,331 lbs. beef at 512 cts., 2705 bl. veal at 5 cts., 1174 lbs. pork at 8 cts., 351 lbs. lamb at 13 cts., 17 hds. salt pork \$20.50, 3873 lbs. cheese at 8 cts., 4704 lbs. butter at 17 cts., 1254 galls. milk at 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts., 446 bushels potatoes at 34 cts., 577 cords wood at \$4.30, 826 bushels charcoal at 19 cts.; besides large quantities of hay, grain etc. at rates not specified, but undoubtedly, being bulky articles, at a still greater comparative price. In view of the large quantities to be contracted for and the year (1834) in which they were delivered, we are informed each by competent judges, those three purchases could have been made here at prices averaging from 19 to 25 or even more per cent less of this, however, the intelligent reader will judge for himself. Again, it would seem that in the original arrangements at Worcester a great error or oversight was made in neglecting to attach a suitable quantity of land to the Institution. It has been found of late years that these asylums can be rendered to a certain extent, self-supporting institutions: that much productive labour can be effected by the inmates and this with the most beneficial effects as a curative means. Dr. Woodward in his report to the Trustees of the Worcester Hospital informs them how profitably productive and useful, agricultural pursuits had been found there, even on hired land, and assures them that he could easily save 10 per cent of the present expense of his support if he had 100 acres of land at his command. In these two items then, it is obvious, that there would be a saving in this State of 25 to 30 per cent reducing the price of the weekly support from \$2 to 1.40 or 20 per week, which is actually below the present cost of our insane, that being as just shown, \$1.75, and this reduction would be made without abating a single dollars expense in salaries, wages, attendants or any other advantages.

Unless there is some error in these calculations it is manifest that there will be an actual saving to the state by the establishment of such an asylum. If there is some undesigned error in fact or conclusion, it is to be hoped that some person will have the kindness to correct it before it misleads ourselves or others.

If an Insane Hospital be established, how shall it be carried on?

by whom shall the cost of the patient be remunerated? shall it be by general tax assessing the whole upon the people at large, or shall the present system of support be pursued. Taking the only strictly general asylum in the country for our model, a portion of the patients will be maintained by their own means or by the aid of their friends; those who are paupers will be supported by the parishes and towns which are liable for them. This system seems convenient and equitable; false, it seems to us, to a single objection only, which is that while the placing of the pauper inmate in a Hospital should be entirely optional with town officers, in some occasional instances such a spirit of selfish and narrow minded parsimony might exist as to prompt them to deny the opportunities of recovery to the sufferer, if some wretched wretch could be found whose cupidity would prompt 'to bid off' the inmate at a lower rate than could be afforded at an asylum. But few such instances would be probably met with; still it might be expedient that some discretionary power should be lodged in the courts or elsewhere to prevent any such abuses. As a general rule it would undoubtedly be best that admission of the insane should be entirely voluntary and optional to the friends or friends having charge of them. The moment that such guardians found that they could support them cheaper at home elsewhere, they should have permission to do so. Judging from the experience at Worcester, there would be but little danger but that the asylum would be filled. In the mode of remuneration now suggested, there would be no charge in pauper law, required, nor would there be any injustice or inequality more than there is at present. The only other financial question to be determined and which indeed, as we believe is the only one which the voters of New Hampshire will be obliged to consider, is what will be the cost of the requisite outfit for the asylum. Here again, we can very satisfactorily refer to that which must be the prototype of the kind of institutions in the United States for a long series of years to come, the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester. The edifice there with all its appendages, was completed at an expense of \$112,000, being within the sum originally estimated. The style of its exterior is probably rather more ornamented and costly than it would have been, if it had not been situated in the centre of a large and wealthy town, perhaps hereafter to be the seat of government of the state. It tells as a highly creditable fact to these gentlemen under whose direction the plan was accomplished, that such an establishment should have been completed at such a cost. Yet there

seems to be little doubt that the same work could be finished in this state at a very considerably diminished cost; the price of building materials, granite, brick, boards, timber &c. as well as labor being considerably less. The committee of our Legislature in 1834 made an investigation into this subject by consulting practical mechanics and was assured that precisely the same structure could be completed here, with the single substitution of a shingle roof for a slate one, at a cost of less than \$21,000; adding to this the requisite funds to provide furniture and make improvements in the grounds &c. the sum of \$4000, would render an appropriation of \$25,000 necessary to obtain the desired end. It would not, perhaps, be too much to expect the vicinity in which the institution shall be located to afford a suitable quantity of land for agricultural operation, as an equivalent for the advantages which so extensive an establishment would be to a town. If however nothing should be received, the addition of a suitable farm, woodland, &c. would be covered by making the entire amount \$29,000. This sum large as it may appear in individual transactions, when divided amongst the population of a state seems sufficiently practicable. If borrowed on the credit of the state the annual interest at 5 per cent would be \$1500, being the sum for many years appropriated to the Hartford Asylum for the deaf and dumb; it would be about one third the amount now annually expended for the destruction of crows, foxes, &c. The entire cost if divided amongst our voters would average considerably less than a single dollar to each, if divided among our population it would be less than 11 cents to each. Lives there a man in our borders who would not willingly tax himself to a far greater amount to insure himself and his children against the present lot of the lunatic, if, (and who is secure?) such should be his fate in the progress of life?

The ground originally proposed for examination, comprehending the number of the insane, their present condition, practicality and probable actual extent of relief, and the cost of affording such aid, having been rapidly surveyed and such facts presented, as it is hoped, are in some some measure satisfactory, the nature and importance of the subject call for some additional and strengthening views on certain points which will be presented in a rapid and somewhat desultory manner, an apology for which, if any is required in such a case, must be found in the multiplied and pressing engagements of a laborious vocation. The present condition of the insane is a subject we felt disinclined to dwell up-

on for two reasons: first, because the details are too painful and revolting to be spread before the public, and secondly it was feared that the character of our community for common humanity would be compromised by the disgusting and repulsive statements which must be presented to do it entire justice. On mature reflection, however, it was felt that this was a duty which, to some extent, must not be passed over:—if our object is to give the intelligent voters of this State reasons for the belief that it is expedient for us to have an Insane Hospital, they ought to know facts, (except such as from the delicacy of individual circumstances are obviously improper to be exposed) which will enable them to know how the insane are treated amongst us. As to any feared discredit from the hapless situation of our lunatics, let that community which has not erred in the same way, "not the first done." To be sure if there was no motive in exposing the condition of the insane, (both rich and poor, for it is not a discreditable fact that they have been treated about alike,) we might allow them to rest in that darkness and silence, to which they now by universal consent and a moral delinquency, are condemned; their agonies and brutal degradations would not be dragged from the cells and cages in which they are entombed to meet the gaze of day. But there is a motive, which we feel irresistible, overwhelming. Let the editors of New Hampshire know that they have it in their power to relieve and to save these wretched beings, and, my life on it, it will be accomplished! All that they require is to be informed. The generous and philanthropic course which so many of our papers have already evinced, is an earnest that this will be effected, as well as ground for hope, whether these journals lead or follow public sentiment, that the State will be reformed in November, from what heretofore was based in ignorance not error, but which when the facts have reached every ear may be deemed curable. Here are a few facts, the authority for which is freely accessible to any one who has any interest to wish for it:—communicated, we hope in us not to wound the sensibilities, the unfortunately mortal feeling of any who may be connected with the details. They are taken not from any extended knowledge of cases in this state on the part of the narrator, but *note* suggest themselves spontaneously to his recollection.

A young man, a physician by profession, left this section of the country some ten years since, after finishing his studies, for the South. Gradually his communications to his friends became more

and more unfrequent, as well as at last, exhibiting a strange flightiness of style indicative of incipient derangement. For several years his anxious parents heard no tidings of him; he had left the place where he had first settled, and his former friends there had lost all trace of him. Three years ago this winter, a man living in a neighborhood where this sufferer had once kept school, going out at day light one morning to feed his cattle noticed a horribly haggard, half-clothed, ragged, filthy, unshorn being just leaving his barn. A few words showed that he was a raving maniac, as well as afforded means of his recognition. He was soon carried to his father's house; the son was not known by the father that begot him; he could not trace in that shivering wretch who stood before him one line by which to recognize the healthy, happy, promising young man who had, a few years before left him. His mother, with a mother's instinctive love knew her son on the instant, and greeted with a mother's welcome, the wanderer, wretched, repulsive as he was. He returned no signs of recognition, but in curses; no consciousness of being at the home of his youth, except in the ferocious hatred he evinced to every inmate! Hopeless as his case seemed to be, his father from the little property which a long and faithful service in that ministry which his pure and blameless life has adorned had left him, sent him to the McLean Asylum. Here he remained six months; though managed so as to be safe and perhaps, if they had had facilities for productive labor he might to some degree have been usefully employed, the directors candidly advised that they could give no encouragement as to his ultimate restoration, so long and so truly had his disease been seated. The father felt unable to pay the cost of mere security and comparative comfort which a hospital afforded, though if any hope had been expressed of a final cure, no money would have been valued. As no such hope was held out, he felt injustice to the rest of his dependent family, that all the care and danger of taking care of him must be assumed by them at home. A few day's residence at his father's of course found him more exasperated and dangerous. As a last resource and as the mode in which he could be kept with least suffering to himself and most safety to those around him, he was put in a strong cage which was placed in a front room of his father's dwelling. The young, educated, and not unaccomplished physician there laid like a beast, "making night hideous" with his screams! He finally refused to speak, lost all susceptibility to external impressions and could neither be persuaded nor compelled to eat.

For 38 days he did not, as his friends assured me, take the value of a pound of nourishment, and died, still a man to the last, of starvation. I saw him for the first time when his wasted, attenuated corpse was uncovered for post mortem examination; a record of the appearance presented was published in the Boston Medical Journal last year. Suffice it to say, that no organic change was found from which it could be judged that this man would have been insane for the rest of his life, if he had not thus died prematurely, or even to account for his being insane at all. Hence we have the authority of facts, multiplied, undeniable facts for believing that if an insane asylum had received him within the first year of his disease, there would have been 3 chances out of 10 that he might now have been fulfilling his duties on the stage of life. Or if such an institution had been established as is now proposed, he could have been placed where a sum within his father's means would have kept him in safety and comfort perhaps not wholly useless, instead of dying, unassisted, unattended, with all his imperfections on his head,—a wretch!

Reader, how much that man suffered in his weary wanderings from Louisiana, in hunger and cold and darkness and nakedness, mental anguish and horror you may conceive, but to feel what his kindred endured, you must have seen as I did, that venerable servant of God, his father, worn out with care, weeping and anxiety, or the sunken cheek of that aged mother telling more eloquently than language, that she "had that within that pious old chest."

The following case was mentioned in conversation with a respectable gentleman now representing in part the town of N—— in the Legislature, in which or an adjacent town it occurred. A man had a son who from illacy or insanity, which was not recited, was necessarily confined. Owing probably to the offensive and disgusting habits which persons of alienated mind, are apt to fall into, his father had a cell constructed in the side of a neighboring hill of brick and mortar, like a tomb, in which the hapless boy was incarcerated and where he remained unseen and unattended to, except that his food was thrust in to him through an opening. In contradiction to that blessed law of human nature, which bears out so beautifully from the depravity of the heart, the father went out and dispirited with anxiety and grief, suddenly removed to the western country, leaving behind this entombed being to the tender mercies of such as should find him. Mr. B. of N. saw him when his cell door was opened and represents the spectacle to have

been heart-shaking in the extreme. The cell was so low that he could not stand up, and hence his joints were so immovably fixed that he could move only by jumping with his feet together!

Mr. B. the worthy senator from Dis. No. 11, related that some years since while travelling in the upper part of the State, he had occasion to call at a decent looking farm house on the road. He saw a careworn, downcast looking man at the door, to whom he was about speaking when he was surprised by hideous yells of mixed profanity and indecency. The man remarked that it was his wife, who was crazy. On entering the house, Mr. B. cast his eye into a back room in which a cage was fenced off by thick stout spruce poles. The maniac woman with eyes flashing fury, hair dishevelled, and clothing half torn off, was flying from bar to bar, like a caged tiger, having literally worn the rough spruce trees to a polished smoothness by the incessant rubbing in her attempts to get out. Is it not wonderful that, to the husband, children, friends who were inmates of the dwelling, the insanity should not have proved contagious:—that their minds, ever kept on the rack by such a scene constantly before them, should not also have been estranged?

In the town in which I am now writing is a man aged near 65, who has been insane for nearly 40 years. Having jointly with others of his family some property, he was supported from it till it was exhausted. He was constantly distracted, keeping himself sequestered like a beast, in a dark apartment, occasionally committing violence to his nearest friends even to the extent of fracturing limbs on two occasions. He was taken to the poor farm; unlike most other town paupers he was an entire stranger; a new generation, unknown to him, had come upon the stage in the more than 40 years he had been shut up in darkness. Of course, he was entirely relinquished to strangers, which experience has shown is so essential a circumstance in managing the insane. Put to moderate labor, he soon improved and in a few months became an useful, industrious and peaceful man, doing as much work as can be at his years; in fact he was returned to the Legislative committee as being no expense to the town. He, however, is still insane to a certain degree. What an instance is this! a whole life, commenced under favorable auspices as far as friends, standing and property were regarded, completely sacrificed! Who can resist the belief that the early influences of hospital management would have saved the life of this man to himself and to society? If the mere influences of separation, moder-

ate labor and such moral management as a common poorhouse affords produced such a change, what might not be expected even at a late hour from the treatment of an asylum?

We would again remark here, as was formerly done in sketching a case which had accidentally fallen under our own observation, that such cases are neither peculiar nor strange. They are merely average instances of severe grades. These are an index to such scenes as are now, every day, transacting in the 81 known instances of confined lunatics in New Hampshire. There are many examples far worse than these, which have been laid before the public years ago. See report of the Committee of 1833, for the account of a female, both of whose feet were amputated in consequence of her being allowed to freeze while insane, as well as other horrid details.

That the insane are occasionally worse treated than either from neglect or ignorance, is a painful truth which duty compels us not to conceal. The official returns of course rarely allude to such facts—they were not called upon to do so; the authors of the returns were generally selectmen whose duty it was to take care of the insane poor; if guilty of neglect they would not proclaim their own shame; or citizens of towns who would not willingly quarrel with their municipal officer or degrade the character of their own townsmen by any imputed or evidence of cruelty. Once in a while the fact of barbarous cruelty and unjustifiable severity to the insane is hinted; but much of the sufferings of these children of sorrow will only be known when all things will be revealed "at that day." If they could tell their woeful history, they too truly—*"would a tale unfold, whose lightest word, would horror up the soul!"*

P. 8. To some of our readers, as a change from these melancholy details, the following interesting case, selected from the pious documents, referred to the Legislative Committee, may be acceptable. It is annexed to a reply to the circular requiring information from a town in Rockingham County:

"There is at our poor house an individual, who though not comprised under the subjects of your inquiry, deserves to be mentioned in this connection. His faculties are bright and unimpaired, but being destitute of two of the ordinary inlets to ideas, his mental characteristics in some respects resemble those of the insane. His name is William Hogg, aged about 60, congenitally deaf and dumb, and blind since childhood—has been supported by the town for a number of years. His sagacity and intelligence

are truly wonderful, certainly not surpassed by Julia Bruno, the deaf and dumb and blind girl at Hartford. The powers which seem to have replaced those wanting, by their increased dexterity, are small, touch and the ability to distinguish the slightest air of his person, such as arises from walking, even at a considerable distance from him.

The mechanical ingenuity he exhibits (supposing as is evident by the collection of miniature wheelbarrows, dolls, coffins, cradles, &c. as his manufactures, as well as the faculty of writing, each one of his occupations having its distinct place where it always is required). He is allowed usually to cultivate a little plot of ground of which he has the entire charge and produce. He sows in each early in the spring, feeding around the fences to ascertain if the work is good; and exhibits great judgment in his time of planting, hoeing, harrowing, &c. in which he goes without any supervision, was always in which, in fact, amuses him.

With intellectual and practical his temper is as ferocious and unmanageable as a lion, but is naturally harmless, peaceable and self-made. The instances of his shrewdness and intelligence are very numerous and some of them very curious. To any person who is capable of observing the insane, and yet has not been familiar with the consequences and results of Asylum, no part of our subject will probably be so psychological as that in regard to these individuals being ruled by kindness alone to engage in useful and profitable labor. If there is any one point on which the character of human existence under the present system of management, is in striking contrast;—neither force nor persuasion seem to induce them to return to their former habits, even when formerly used intimidating and punishments. The entire schedule of years shows that it is very seldom that a single one is reported as doing any thing towards his support and well being or that in the course of his existence of earning these own living. The few examples of better & frequently noticed in this direction in mental labor. We find no in Washington, as in the country, day after day, at keeping themselves shut out from society, or prowling about by the night regardless of darkness, cold or hunger, in fact by the most unappealing conditions and habits, but all agreeing to this one conclusion. Yet it is an interesting fact, and one which we hope will weigh on the minds of those who are here, who feel that we are not able as a State to meet the expense of an insane hospital, that in all the most successful and best arranged institutions of Europe and the country, a large

amount of useful and productive labor is effected by the inmates; that they are induced to engage in it, of their own free will, without compulsion and almost without persuasion, and that this employment for reasons hereafter referred to, is of immense and indispensable value as a means of instruction and improvement, as well as proving, in every additional years experience demonstrates, a more and more considerable auxiliary towards the expenses of carrying on institutions. To establish these facts we shall bring forward the highest testimony of which the subject is susceptible; the evidence of those men whose lives are and have been devoted to the insane, and who stand at the head of their profession in this department.

Dr. Macdonald of the Bloomsdale Asylum, in his report to the Common Council of New York City on an Asylum for the insane poor, observes: "Until recently the insane were thought to be incapable of useful or regular employment. It may now be said that after classification, the most important of all considerations in their management is occupation. The utility arising from employment is not only positive but two fold; utility to the person employed, and utility to the establishment. The salutary influence on the patient is both moral and physical; it gives health and vigor of body, while it directs the mind from brooding over its own sorrows or dwelling upon its favorite delusion. In a pauper establishment like that in contemplation, it is probable that all or nearly all the inmates will be persons who have been used to manual labor. How important then does it become to provide for manual labor, in such a way that the different tastes and trades may be suited. The day rooms or other large apartments included in the general plan, may serve for the women but it will be necessary to construct distinct work-shops for the men. It may be thought by some, that this is one of those crude plans so often suggested by unreflecting philanthropy, but its practicality has been demonstrated by repeated experiments. In the strictly pauper Asylums of England and Scotland, a large proportion of the patients have of late been employed; thus in the Middlesex county establishment, two fifths are employed; the men as shoemakers, tailors, weavers, carpenters, bricklayers, bakers, brewers, gardeners, hiberners, &c.;—the women at knitting, sewing, straw-hat making, washing, cleaning houses, feeding poultry, working the garden, &c. At Wakefield, nearly the same proportion, while at the Dundee Asylum, more than one half are employed.

—In the public asylums both of Ireland and Germany, the in-

care have also been extensively employed, with advantage to themselves and with the effect of materially lessening expense.

"In France, employment is considered of no less importance, though it has not been very extensively introduced into the public establishments. In the course of his observations on this subject the distinguished physician above named [Esquirol] says, "In our asylums the word labor is always in the mouth of the medical attendant:—this word strikes without ceasing the ears of the patient who mutually encourage each other; it is the predominant idea, in persuading the insane to labor, we afford them at once the most useful diversion and the means of ameliorating their condition. It is not rare to see the unfortunate, whom excess of misery has deranged and brought into our asylums, leave them with their reason entire and a little sum of money to provide for their first wants or to commence a little establishment."

"To provide the insane with employment to pay them however small a sum for the produce of their labor, is to lay hold of a principle deeply rooted in human nature; and to turn it to account is to carry out the principle already established; to treat the insane as nearly as possible as if in perfect possession of reason."

The peculiar description of labor and mode of its adaptation is obvious will vary with the circumstances of every asylum. This branch of the topic as relating to an institution in New Hampshire and adapted to the habits, means and views of our citizens deserves deep consideration and perhaps may hereafter be examined.

The next valuable testimony on the point now under consideration is from Dr. Woodward, the distinguished physician and superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester. It is from a private letter to a gentleman making inquiries, under date of Feb. 28, 1836. Though evidently not prepared for the public eye, we know too well the philanthropic character of the writer to fear that he would feel any objection to its being published when any good might be accomplished through its means: "My dear sir—We have for two years past hired land or taken it upon shares, but this is not the way a State institution should do. We can rarely hire land that is in a high state of cultivation and if we hire that which is poor we lose all the improvements. But this is not all; we would wish to possess the lands that we may try various experiments of different modes of employing men:—some would be ambitious to cultivate a spot in their own way with a particular vegetable;—another might like hedging, another ornamenting and in

this way, victuals better might be gotten and competition excited which would improve and benefit the inmates. One man has a room for hampsters—another for fowling on a large scale; some for taking care of pigs and poultry, another cows or mare. And though I doubt not hands in this way would be rendered profitable and very productive, yet this is a secondary object. Their main duty now is health, repose and sobriety of mind, when the powers are not kept by perpetual activity. This is not less true of the female—almost all subjects of insanity fall into a state of indolence of mind, rather than activity. The powers and faculties become dormant, after the same degree, whether, for want of exercise, and the individuals fall into various ill habits for want of the means of supplying the mental and physical powers. Place a man in solitary confinement, and he will work sufficiently for his training, to improve himself or his instrument. Give him music and amusement and blood-tempt will prevail, his accounting to regulating practices, and his natural work played out. Duty will be otherwise suggested.

It is as difficult to keep an insane man confined after his period of confinement has passed by, as to keep a patient with a fractured leg locked up, or to render of the bones to be accomplished. The patient may wish to break out, and may never be able to restrain himself, till he exercises strength and vigour are imparted to them. The necessary amusements of the hospital are needed, and for every man nothing, but they will not interfere with labour in a room, or restoring the regularity of reason or correcting the physical powers. It is true that men break out and are still—such a man has no work. It is no less true that all play and labour, becomes thoughtless, a whim and does not give that healthy impetus to the mind, which the idea of duty in labour is sure to impart.

I do not wish a large quantity of stable land (2) more added to our present farms, with a good deal of wood of wood or well sown land to keep and to feed a mill for our patients, and another to raise the standard of our food to the highest price of productions. Our 2000 ac. land we raised this year 875 worth of produce, and the value did not cost us 200. We could value 8000 worth of land as well as that of the 2000 ac. land at the same proportional expense of labour and we could have made more than the three times the amount of the increased price.

Thus, we show us, in a happy and superior manner, I repeat, we can live. Give us the means of employment, by the inmates' labour, and I think we will extend our efforts which

would gratify the public.

"I hope all the new institutions will look well to the matter. The commissioners to erect the Ohio Insane Hospital wrote to me that they had procured 20 acres of College land. I wrote advising them to add 50 acres more for mowing and pasturing."

For additional details on this point from the same gentlemen, and from Dr. Lee of the McLean Asylum, the reader is referred to pages 18 and 20 of the late "Report on the Insane."

In our next, the experience of some foreign institutions will be detailed, corroborating in their extended attempts, the expediency of this course. Here we would stop a moment to anticipate an objection to the idea of the labor of the insane being of any material value in the support of an asylum. It will be asked why, when our State prisons, as shown in the ten years reports of the Prison Discipline Society, with a body of healthy males in the prime of life, do not generally earn their ordinary cost of subsistence, a community of insane males and females, many of course, in imperfect health of body, under the influence of restricted diet or medicinal agents in many cases, or unwilling to work in some, should not be an absolute and total bill of expense? The answer to this rational inquiry, we believe, perfectly satisfactory. The nature of prison discipline renders it unavoidable that criminals should be engaged in manufacturing;—their manufactures must be connected with trading; hence all the uncertainties, risks and agencies of these changing and precarious employments must be a necessary contingency of such establishments. They must enter into competition with other manufactures, employ commission merchants, suffer losses, pay guarantees and balances of interest, and in fact do all their commercial business at the greatest disadvantage. Once in a while, as these reports of the Discipline Society fully show, for a few years, a State Prison may pay a large *sol* balance into the Treasury of a State, but general experience shows that these obstacles are so many and so great as to be fatal to all pecuniary profit.

Now an insane asylum would be strictly a great agricultural establishment, with this additional circumstance in its favor that every thing which was produced would be consumed within its walls. There would be neither agencies, nor losses of payments. Whether money was plenty or scarce, easy or hard, it would be the same to its operations; whether its products were cheap or dear, they

would be ever sure of a demand, and without risk of non-payments.—How much a few well managed acres will yield is well known; and how many of the essentials and necessities of life the labor of a few persons or a single person will produce on a farm, is obvious to any one who will cast his eye round our State and witness a single man with perhaps some occasional help, bringing up a large family with all the comforts and most of the luxuries of life. It is not however pretended or expected that the labor of the inmates of an asylum should do more than reduce the average cost of the establishment. A slight reduction even as we have seen, will bring the actual expense below what it is now known to be. The fact that the Insane under the influences of suitable Institutions are capable of doing much profitable labor and that with great moral and physical benefit to their condition, is one which is so important and new to the public in general, that we feel it necessary to make on this point decidedly and satisfactorily. If we established, it commends itself particularly to one who may doubt whether such provision for inmates as contemplated can be afforded without great and serious expense to the public, beyond what their necessities or our ability should sanction, as well as to say, if any there are, who feel a repugnance that those should on the bread of idleness, whose misfortune has too often, as we confess, been brought upon themselves by their own folly, impudence or intemperance.

In our last number, some results were given from the experience of the hospitals in this region of the United States. Here we will present some evidence from Europe where the experiment has been long tried and conclusively settled. M. Pinel who deserves to be honored as the father of the present system of humane and successful management of the Insane observes;

"That at the principal hospitals in Spain those of the Insane capable of working, are distributed every morning into separate parties, an overseer is deputed to each class, who apportions to them individually their respective employments, directs their exertions, and watches over their conduct. The whole day is thus occupied in solitary and refreshing exercises, which are interrupted only by short intervals of rest and relaxation.

The fatigues of the day prepare the laborers for sleep and repose during the night. Hence it happens, that those whose condition does not place them above the necessity of submission to toil and labor, are almost always cured; whilst the graver who would think himself degraded by exercise

of this description, is generally incurable."¹⁰

The following facts are from Mr. Halliday's valuable work on the Insane Hospitals in Great Britain. "It is not by seclusion and mystery, that they can be properly watched over, or by confinement in the wards or cells of an hospital that they are to be cured. Experience has shown that a regulated intercourse with the world, and constant employment of the mind and body, are the best aids to medical treatment, and in the construction of every Asylum, these ought to be kept constantly in view. The great objection to the generality of the public Asylums in England, is their want of space for different work shops, and of a sufficient quantity of ground on which the patients can be employed in agricultural labor. At Wakefield the patients have uniformly been employed at their various trades, and in agricultural labor, and the best results have followed this judicious system. Dr. Ellis in a recent remarks, that no accident has ever occurred from allowing the Insane the use of instruments necessary for their trades or occupation, and that while labor has tended greatly to lessen the expense of the establishment, it has also aided in hastening their cure.

"At the Lancaster Asylum, all who are in a fit situation are employed in such occupations as are adapted to their abilities and previous habits, some in husbandry and gardening, getting stones and making roads upon the waste grounds adjoining the house, under the direction of attendants, and the women are employed in sewing, washing, and all household work.

"At the Stafford Lunatic Asylum, with one hundred and twenty patients, they cultivate thirty acres of pasture, pleasure and garden grounds. The labor is performed entirely by the patients, assisted by two attendants, and all the making of linen and mending of clothes is done by the females—and the number of cures bears ample testimony to the judicious arrangement and proper treatment established in the Asylum.

"At the Gloucester Asylum, many of the men are regularly employed in cultivating the ground, and, notwithstanding they are entrusted with spades and other garden tools, no accident has occurred, not even among those who as carpenters are allowed the use of edge tools. The females assist in all the household duties, and in needle work which, as the report states, is found not only useful to themselves, but also, most beneficial to the establishment.

At the Richmond Lunatic Asylum, Ireland, the average number for 1827, was about two hundred and sixty; seventy three

were discharged, recovered, thirteen relieved, and twenty-seven died. At the close of the year, twenty-five were convalescent, one hundred and thirty-two curable, and one hundred and twenty incurable. Eighteen patients were employed in garden labor, sixteen in spinning, twelve in knitting, and eighteen at needle work; twenty-six were employed in keeping the house clean; twelve in washing, and sixteen in other employments, such as carrying coal, white washing the wards, weaving, tailoring; twelve were learning to read, so that of two hundred and seventy-seven, not less than one hundred and thirty were actively and usefully employed. During the year not less than 2188 skeins of yarn spun, 400 pairs of men's, and 349 pairs of women's stockings were knit, and of linen woven in the establishment, there were made by the female patients for the use of the inmates, 140 shirts, 180 chemises, 113 pillow-cases, 56 pairs of sheets, 55 roller, 31 bedclothes, 80 night-caps, besides the whole clothing of the male and female attendants.

The Arragh District Asylum, Ireland, had been in operation about two years. Average number of patients about 76. Had received in that period 140 patients, of whom 3 had been discharged cured, 9 relieved, 6 not relieved, 8 died, and 76 remained in the Institution, at the close of the second year. There are thirteen acres of land attached to the Institution, which is cultivated by the patients, and furnishes potatoes and vegetables for the consumption of the whole establishment. All the linen for the house-consumption is woven by the patients in the Asylum, and all of their clothing is made by themselves. The average number of patients employed during the second year, is thus stated by the Superintendent, Mr. Jackson. Of the males in garden labor 12; weaving 5; tailoring 5; net making 2; household work 5; white washing 1; and of the females in spinning flax 6; making female clothing 8; washing 3; and in household duties 1. Total 48. Taking 50 the number at the close of the second year as the average number, though it was not perfectly so large, nearly two-thirds were employed. "As employment," adds this intelligent Superintendent, is now generally allowed to be one of the best restoratives, every means has been used to promote it. Such as are at all capable among the females, are constantly occupied at plain work, spinning, &c., and the division in which there are most regularly carried on, is remarkable for its regularity and cheerfulness. The patients, with a few exceptions, seem happy and grateful. Avoiding all compulsion, I

modest and a small premium has the desired effect." "Among the lower classes of the people, it will generally be found that useful occupation in the pursuits to which they have been most accustomed, is their best amusement, and such employment the most salutary mode of recreation that can be resorted to. One of the principle objects kept in view in the direction of this (the Wakefield) Asylum, has been to obtain for the patients constant and regular employment; and for that purpose, not only farming and gardening, but all trades, have been forced into the service—we have spinners, weavers, tailors, shoemakers, brewers, bakers, blacksmiths, joiners, painters, brick layers and stone masons, all employed. All the clothing is manufactured and made by themselves; we bake our own bread, brew our own beer, and nearly one half of both male and female patients are constantly engaged in some kind of labor. The moment there is convalescence, the patient is enticed to occupy himself with his usual healthy pursuits, and indeed many may never begin to amend until we have induced them to engage in such employments. I am thankful to say, that this has been done, hitherto, without an injury of any consequence from one patient's striking another when they are employed; and besides the great and evident benefit which such a system has had in the recovery of the patients themselves, it is a source of great saving to the institution; for notwithstanding that we have for many years received only seven shillings a week for a pauper, a fund has accumulated, which by the end of the year will exceed three thousand pounds."

—*Dr. Ellis.*

With respect to employment in this State, the great consideration would be undoubtedly to engage only in those pursuits, in addition to the multifarious and never-ceasing employment of a great farming establishment, which would require neither any considerable outlay of capital, little superintendence or direction beyond the ordinary assistants of the Asylum, and no machinery. The branches of business should be of those common and useful descriptions involving little trading operations, and directed as much as possible for the immediate wants of the institution itself. Yet with these restrictions, an ingenious manager would find no difficulty in keeping a portion of the inmates voluntarily employed and interested. What situation would present greater facilities for testing the practicability of raising silk in the domestic way? The planting, transplanting and cultivating the mulberry, collecting the leaves, feeding the worms, the preparation of the

coarsens, and perhaps the ultimate processes of reeling the silk, &c. would all be practicable. Where could be found a more eligible situation for the experiment of separating the sugar of the beet, now so much the subject of examination, the raising and perpetuation of saddle, or of various at present untried pursuits which eventually may afford employment and profitable returns to thousands of our citizens? Or if novel and experimental employments should not be preferred, the many already tried and proved branches of New England domestic labor would all be well adapted to the peculiar family of an insane retreat, such as the manufacture of palmetto and straw hats, brooms, raising and preparing tannins, &c. &c. &c.

There is still another point of view in which the establishment of an Insane Hospital commends itself to the good wishes and exertions of the enlightened moral and religious community of New Hampshire. In the present condition of the insane, they are all treated alike, as if like brutes, they had no moral sentiments to be guided, no religious feelings to be encouraged, no soul to be saved. There may be; it is true, such forms of mental alienation that the whole responsibilities and accountabilities of the men are merged in the chaos of madness; there are other states of mental insensibility in which the intellectual functions are no longer capable of perceiving, nor the moral affections of appreciating right from wrong, good from evil. But it is no less true, that in a great many instances the entire mind is not wrecked; that though on some points—all may be confusion, wrong impressions, insanity, on many or all others there may remain an adequate degree of sanity. The public loses sight of this distinction almost always. The terms *insane*, *deranged*, are so comprehensive with them as to include all forms and degrees of mental change. Our courts of Justice and Juries it is to be feared have not always conceived the exact degree of accountability of those whose mental soundness is affected; and that an individual may be hopelessly bereft of reason on some subjects and yet undeniably responsible and deserving punishment for certain offences and crimes. For example; a few years ago there was a butcher in one of the middle states, who continued to occupy himself regularly and cheerfully with his customers and to converse rationally upon all subjects except his own fate and the universal conspiracy amongst his neighbors to poison him. He cooked his own viands and regularly every morning went about a mile to the river to supply himself with water, which he asserted could contain no poison.

since the fish continued to live in it. Now had this individual detected a person in such a situation as would have led his diseased fancy to imagine him to be introducing poison into his food and had destroyed the supposed offender in the act, a jury would undoubtedly have acquitted him and rightly. But had this latter been proved guilty of larceny, or arson or any offence not connected with his peculiar hallucination, he unquestionably would have deserved punishment. A case is now going the rounds of the newspapers involving this same principle. At a late term of the Supreme Court at Worcester, a Mr. D. was brought into Court at Worcester, on a writ of *habeas corpus* granted at his own request, and summoned the Physician of the Hospital to show cause for his detention. Mr. D. managed the case for himself, able counsel being opposed. He claimed his release on the ground that he was not insane; and in support of this position, the officers of the institution testified that his general conduct, since he had been with them, did not indicate insanity, that he was considered docile and civil in his deportment—conversed on general subjects with propriety and reasonal well—and appeared to understand fully his rights and duties as a citizen and rightly to appreciate his moral obligations. It appeared however that on one subject he was exceedingly lunatic; this consisted in a kind of false hearing; fancying that he heard insulting and opprobrious language, and that even the musical instruments and bells chimed in, to ridicule and abuse him. Mr. D. explained all this on a fine drawn theory, illustrated with examples from books and natural philosophy, that he had a peculiar sensibility of organs, an unusual delicacy of ear that conveyed these sounds to him, while they were, as he admitted, perfectly inaudible to mankind in general. He exhibits no higher degree of wrath and aggravation than any natural man would do were the occasions real. On all other subjects he is rational and intelligent. He writes and converses well; and all this excitement grows out of this difficulty and the abridgement of his liberty, which he believes to be unjust and oppressive. No man would suspect his insanity if he were with strangers. The Physician of the Hospital, however, was not willing to hazard an opinion that he would be safe at large with his impression and prejudices against some persons whom he supposes are his enemies; or that in case he should chance to be on trial for a felonious assault upon their person, there would not be sufficient evidence of insanity to induce his acquittal on that ground for any charge which might be

brought against him, is reference to any of those individuals from whom he conceives he has received so much insult and oppression. On this ground, he was remanded to the Institution by the Court. In this case it is obvious, that the individual could not justly be held responsible for any crime which he should commit connected with the peculiar illusion under which he suffers; good sense he is undoubtedly insane and irresponsible; neither in the eye of God or man ought to be held guilty. But let him commit a forgery or a theft, having no bearing upon the subject of his monomania, and there would be no reason why he should not be amenable to punishment; so far, sin committed under the same restrictions and circumstances, the individual above referred to would be justly amenable to the righteous law of God, and of that guilt, original or immediate, resulting from infractions and transgressions on the part of the unaffected portion of his intellectual and moral agencies, they can only be cleansed by the acceptance of that atonement "which taketh away the sin of the world."

It has been found of late years that the introduction of religious teaching and instruction can be accompanied with the happiest results. As our object is to communicate facts, we prefer to introduce the accounts of those who have long and extensively resided and proved their opinions; their statements have a weight and authority which our comparatively few experimentally grounded views would not command. We will again quote from the report of Dr. MacDonald to the Common Council of the city of New York, a document embracing the entire detail of what the interior arrangements and management of an insane Asylum should be: "It has been doubted if religious exercises could be introduced with advantage into asylums for the insane. From numerous experiments made in England and Scotland and I may add, more recently at our own asylum at Bloomsburgh, the question is now at rest. At least it is the opinion of the majority of persons connected with public establishments, that the precepts and consolations of religion may be made most useful in the moral management of the inmates. Chaplains are now attached to most of the large County asylums of England, which they visit at least once a week, when service is regularly performed. In Catholic countries, chapels form an essential part of almost all asylums. Here, such patients as are in a proper condition, attend mass once a week; a priest being usually attached to the establishment, where he permanently resides. It is now a year since religious service

was introduced into the Bloomingdale Asylum, and it may be said to have answered the most sanguine expectations of the governor, and it is not surprising, that it has, when we consider that one of the grand principles in the management of the insane, is to treat them as nearly as possible like rational beings. This being acknowledged and the large proportion of people in this country being in the habit of attending religious worship, is it not reasonable to suppose that to deprive them of this privilege when removed from home and from the natural objects of their affections, will be to deprive them of one of the few consolations that are left? Setting aside the more lasting and important influence of religious service, and viewing simply as a moral agent in the treatment of insanity, as promoting order, as reviving long neglected habits or as continuing those that have been well established, it may be considered as an important part of our regimen. Besides how important, it is in so large a household and among so many attendants and other persons employed to preserve decorum and regularity of habits, and to this, it must be allowed, that religious instruction contributes in no small degree. Almost one-half of the persons in the Bloomingdale Asylum usually attend service."

Dr. Lee reports the following, as the result of this measure at the Melrose Asylum over which he presides:

"The experiment of allowing the patients to attend the worship of the family, thus far exceeded our expectations, and has been attended with the best results.

"Ninety-five, out of the hundred and thirty-six, have attended upon these exercises, and a large part of them with great regularity. It has been with a few exceptions entirely voluntary. It is regarded as a privilege and as such is eagerly sought. The slightest irregularity of conduct has been followed by the omission of the individual from the list for a few evenings, and the deprivation has secured order and propriety. Patients, who could not otherwise be kept decently clothed, have exerted their powers of self control to be allowed to attend.

"It is now about two months since we commenced service on the sabbath. The clergymen in this vicinity upon whom we have called, have very cheerfully consented to officiate: their remarks to us have corresponded with those of other strangers who have been present at these exercises—"how perfectly quiet." Several have observed that it was the most interesting audience they had ever addressed.

"Fifty of the patients have been permitted to attend church on the sabbath, in company with the officers and attendants; the effect of these exercises, is, not only to break in upon the monotony of their lives, and to induce habits of order and regularity, but, to soothe the feelings, awaken the affections, and carry the mind back to the memory of sabbath and better days; and also to cause them to recollect the infinite goodness and all-wise Providence of God. If all are not edified, most are interested, and all are attentive and respectful."

Another extract, giving the experience of an institution at Edinburgh, will close our remarks on this topic, which we recommend to the serious and devout attention of the philanthropist and christian.

"In general from forty to forty-five of the patients attend divine service. Their conduct in the chapel might indeed afford a salutary lesson to many in the possession of all their faculties. To these poor nuns it is no light, trifling, or matter-of-form business to engage in the services of their God. Disposed to look for indifference instead of affection from their fellow-creatures, and cut off from their business and innocent enjoyments of time, many of them go to the chapel delighted with the remembrance that there is a friend whom adversity cannot change,—a blessed Redeemer, who visits the humble apartment into which the parent or child cannot, often dare not, enter.

"The duties of the Sabbath have (by their own admission) occupied many a thought during the preceding week. When engaged in these duties, their cares and sorrows are for a time lost sight of, and even the most wretched manifest, by their deportment, the soothing effects of religious feeling. After leaving the chapel, the duties of the morning form the subject of conversation during the rest of the day; and sermons heard in happier scenes are remembered and compared with that delivered to them by their chaplain. "Formerly, (partly perhaps on account of the surrounding stillness, the Sabbath appeared to be the most disturbed day of the week; ever since the worship of God commenced, it has been the most peaceful, and evidently the most delightful to the patients. "On different occasions individuals returned, some time after having been discharged, requesting to be permitted again to join in worship with their former partners in affliction; and several who either met the chaplain by accident, or

called upon him, have testified, in the strongest terms, the happiness they enjoyed when surrounding the family after during their days of darkness.

The foregoing general statements might be sufficient to prove the benefit which the insane derive from religious exercises, but a more minute account may, perhaps, be desired of a field but lately opened through Christian benevolence. To gratify such a wish, the following facts may be stated, illustrative of the conduct of the insane in the chapel, and of the effects produced upon them by the worship of God.

On one occasion, in the middle of the sermon, a man subject to epilepsy sunk to the ground in frightful convulsions. If any fear was entertained lest others might have been excited by the distressing spectacle, it was but for a moment: two of his companions, both generally restless and troublesome, voluntarily went to the assistance of the superintendant, and removed the unhappy man. Whenever the door was closed, the rest prepared again to listen with unshaken composure.

Had nothing more been effected by divine service in the Asylum, than merely securing by this means to the insane, during a peaceful hour, forgetfulness of their sorrows, and, by breaking in upon the monotonous round of a solitary life, awakening early recollections, thus proving to them that they are still united with, and remembered by, their fellow-men, the benefit conferred upon them would have been great; but the foregoing statements will prove that more has been accomplished. The living are soothed and comforted, the dying have been strengthened by the service of God, and the oft expressed desires of many have been gratified: for, repeatedly, before the service of God was established in the Asylum, the patients, upon hearing the tolling of the bells for public worship, remarked to Mrs. Mackay, the matron, how much they felt the want of religious instruction, and with what delight they would have joined the multitude that kept the solemn holy day. They now receive the wished-for religious instruction, and meet in their solitary mansion to worship Him who is not confined to temples made with men's hands; and highly do they seem to value the blessed privileges.—May the happy effects produced upon them by Divine truth, be the means of directing public attention to the spiritual necessities of the insane in general, and dispose those to

whose care they are entrusted, to introduce the service of the only Physician of the pried in spirit into every similar institution!"

There are several circumstances which would render the advantages of an Insane Hospital in this State very pre-eminent, and its operations and management peculiarly satisfactory and unperplexing beyond most of them established on different principles in this country, and especially as contrasted with those of Europe. There a very considerable proportion of all the pauper-lunatics are of the lowest and most degraded character, independently of their mental alienation, beggars, leprose, belong in fact not so much elevated in the scale of existence as our southern slaves! human beings who have never been accustomed to bodily exertion, to any elevated recreation or to maintain any personal character or responsibility in society.

With us on the contrary, however sordid and degraded the present condition of the lunatic may be, we are almost certain in every instance that under the repulsive exterior, there is to be found a pearl which is worthy of the search and which will repay the labor of the polish. With us in New England, there is none so poor as not to have received some rudiments of education, of morals and of religious instruction; none so sordid but that at some period or other of life, the attempt has been made to inculcate habits of industry, order and foresight. There is a foundation of moral and intellectual character, which however concealed and broken down by the rubbish of vicious propensities or mental dissipation, encourages the attempt to clear it away for a new and useful superstructure. In Europe, on the other hand, not the title of any such inducement can be held out for making exertions to relieve the insane poor, as with us, for when restored they are found hardly worth the labor and cost expended upon them. For example, a twentieth part of all the female patients, admitted into La Salpêtrière, the grand lunatic hospital of Paris, are previously prostitutes; a still greater proportion are street-beggars and vagabonds of the lowest description. There are also some horrible scenes of insanity on the beaten abandoned continent of Europe, which can only be alluded to here, which form the physical cause of no inconsiderable portion of the admissions to their asylums. In a vast majority of all the cases restored by their skill

and care, a *Pinet* or *Esquiro* could only hope to see themselves rewarded by returning their patients back to those object grades from which they had been received. Here on the contrary, whenever a lunatic is restored to reason, the advantage to the individual and to society is manifest and undoubted. There is no class amongst us whose existence is not as a whole of advantage to the community; none whom we could spare without loss. It was well observed in relation to our last war, that opposing our citizen soldiers to the mercenary troops of Europe was staking guineas against half-pence; the illustration is equally good in contrasting the value of our restored insane with theirs.

Again, the citizens of New Hampshire, from the local situation and pursuits of their state, will have the satisfaction of knowing that whatever sacrifices and expenditures are made for this object will be for the benefit of our own fellow-citizens almost exclusively. The institutions of other states are over-run with foreign paupers, for whom no sympathy or fellow feeling can be experienced other than which common humanity dictates; no conviction that in restoring them to reason we benefit ourselves, our posterity, or our country. In Massachusetts of 164 patients admitted during the first year of their operations 33 were foreigners; at *Bloomington* the proportion is still larger. Here, it is not recollected that there are in the official returns more than a case or two of such objects. Our insane are of our own country and kindred, and will always continue so to be to a great extent. Another circumstance which will render the operations of an Hospital amongst us particularly satisfactory, is the general uniformity of condition amongst our people. No one who has not been familiar with the management of Insane Asylums can be aware of the embarrassments, perplexities and difficulties arising from the artificial differences of the patients founded on their wealth, standing, manners, &c. These distinctions which must be maintained in private institutions or in those depending on their popularity with the wealthy for their support, strike at the root of that system of classification which is so absolutely essential in the management of the insane; a classification which ought to be based on other conditions of the sufferer than his own or his friends pecuniary ability; and which forms so important a feature in the very ground work of the proper arrangements for any such establishment, as deserves a few minutes consideration.

"The moral treatment of the insane,"—observes Dr. MacDon-

aid of the Boston Asylum, "which in general terms is so comprehensive, and includes the various kinds of employment and recreation, the personal influence of physicians, superintendent, nurse, &c. in a word every agent brought to bear directly on the mind of the patient begin with classification. Without it the whole management of an establishment for the insane becomes confused and irregular. Before adopting any plan for building, some classification or other should be fixed upon and the internal arrangements made accordingly. Though until recently it has been scarcely thought of in the construction of asylums, yet classification is now justly considered by almost all persons of experience of the first importance in the treatment of insanity. There may yet remain, perhaps, some individuals long wedded to antiquated notions or blinded by favorite theories, who can see nothing but vanity and amusement in the indiscriminate mingling of the insane. But the number of such thinkers is small and their arguments feeble. The chief of these is, that a mixture will serve to divert a melancholy patient. This we approve of and this we seek and effect by classification; while by the want of it there is perhaps a more heterogeneous mixture than any other kind of society of equal numbers can present. The indiscriminate mingling of the mild and furious, clean and filthy, convalescent and idiotic, need only be witnessed to be deprecated." It fortunately happens that with us, those conventional distinctions which are the basis of unnatural classifications elsewhere are not to be found to any marked extent. There are no classes of society amongst us who are virtuous and respectable who cannot associate in every-day life and on terms of kindness and courtesy. There would be still less distinction amongst the intrinsically equal inmates of an asylum. Their exterior habiliments would be the same, the kindness and attention they receive would be identical, in that no preference or distinction would be felt or recognized except that arising from the grade, character and degree of their disease. It is well known that in the institutions established by private enterprise, or supported by private expense the rate of expense rises with the means of the sufferer or his friends, and the accommodations, convenience and comforts of the inmates are guaranteed according to this unnatural standard. This is a course naturally attended with invidious and unpleasant distinctions, calculated to have an injurious effect on the popular feeling, respectively as well as on the immediate management of the institution. Whether some grades of compensation might not be introduced

According to the actual cost of the patients to the institution, as might admit of consideration, but there should be no difference dependant on the parts of the patients, greater ability and least of all on any superior grade of attention or comfort bestowed on any such account. An ingression has obtained to a considerable extent of elevation that if an insane asylum were established, its rates of charges for bad cases would be so high as to forbid the idea of those of moderate property being able to support their friends there. This very natural error arises from the high compensation necessarily charged in the magnificently expensive asylums intended for and supported by the rich mainly, elsewhere. The evidence we have adduced shows that no such result is to be feared of any institution based on the model of that at Worcester.

Our view of such an institution designed for our people is that it should be a *great agricultural family*. Here there would be no opportunity for grades of respectability or differences of attention and comfort, except that which would arise from the actual state of the mental and moral qualities of the inmates. The great proportion would be, from choice alone, agricultural laborers, some to a greater and some to a less extent according as their health and propensities might permit or induce. In such a great farming establishment as this would be, the luxuries of life, the delicacies of the table, and the splendid and ostentatious style of the furniture and accommodations; such as are essential in some of our private establishments would neither be expected nor desired. Every thing should be carried on in a style of the greatest simplicity and plainness. While on the one hand every thing which would add to the actual comforts or prospect of cure to the inmate was scrupulously provided, there would be no room for the imputation that the inmates fared more sumptuously than the great bulk of those who would be compelled to contribute to their support. The great end and aim of such a concern would, as far as its financial affairs are considered, if our view be correct, be that of the truly independent farmer, to live as far as possible within its own resources; to depend mainly for its subsistence, upon the products of its own territory raised by its own hands, leaving its receipts from abroad to meet its demands for salaries, wages, medicines, &c. &c.; and to avoid as far as possible all trading operations or engaging in any business or pursuits in hopes of mercantile profit, which of course would be subject to the vicissitudes and losses of trade. An institution established on the governing principles of a just and equal regard to the claims of all,

and carried on with a single-eyed aim to its true end, unconnected with and uninfluenced by all circumstances foreign to its only object, the cure and ameliorating custody of the insane, could not fail to be a blessing to society and an honor to our state and time. There is a single circumstance which should commend itself to the serious and conscientious attention of those, who may not have fully investigated, or are in any doubts as to the expediency of voting in the affirmative of the above question, which is at the November meetings to be presented to them. This is the probable fate of this cause for the future, if from neglect, indifference or opposition of its inexpediency, it should not receive the sanction of a majority of our voters; a contingency which we can hardly believe possible, and from address from various sections of the state we are convinced is very improbable. But as this is a cause which eminently stands on its own merits, offering no inducements of selfishness, unconnected with factitious influences, presenting no lucrative offices to be contended for, no rich endorsements to be managed, there can be little expectation of its being forced forward and urged through with that zeal and perseverance which personal motives naturally bring to an object presented to popular suffrage.

If the friends of this measure rely solely on the mild and silent eloquence of benevolence to whisper to the busy and hurried attendants of a town meeting that they should vote in favor of this object, they may find the voices of justice and humanity is too small to be heard amidst the din of local and political contentions. To judge what the future probable fate of all hopes at least for many years, of seeing an asylum for the lunatic provided in this State, let us regard for a moment the history of this movement in New Hampshire.

It is well known that this subject has been before the public for a few years only. Prior to this, little feeling and still less information was abroad respecting the condition of the insane, and scarcely anything was understood as to their treatment. They were not generally considered so much objects of commiseration themselves, as their friends were. The repulsive, loathsome aspect of the lunatic, his profane, obscene or unintelligible language, his malicious, violent and dangerous actions, his hideous screams and nocturnal wanderings all united in rendering him an object of terror and abhorrence to be avoided, rather than of pity, or for the application of benevolence. The first public appeal to the citizens of New Hampshire was made in the annual message of

the late Gov. Dimessee to the Legislature in 1832. It is so full of true feeling and genuine eloquence that it well merits a reprint.

"There is," he remarks, "still an other class of sufferers far more deplorably afflicted, than any of the present beneficiaries of the State, to alleviate whose wretchedness is an undertaking highly worthy the exercise of legislative wisdom. I feel that no apology need be made, in an age so distinguished for its public and private charities, for calling your attention to a subject which has so much reason and humanity on its side as a measure for the security and recovery of the insane or insane. The Legislature of this state has never yet recognized these unfortunate beings as entitled to any special favor from government. The period indeed is not very remote when the insane were thought to be the victims of an incurable and hopeless malady; and before the establishment of suitable hospitals and retreats for their reception, they might justly be considered so. It is well known how delicate and difficult is the task, even under the most advantageous circumstances of "ministering to the mind diseased." Great tenderness, discretion, temper, unwearied patience, and varied experience in mental affections, are with other qualifications, indispensable to success. When therefore the insane are left as now to the insufficient means and incompetent skill of relatives and friends, or still worse to the negligence and indifference so often exhibited in the treatment of patients of every kind in town poor houses, or when they are subjected as is frequently the case to the privations and solitude of a goal, where attention is limited to the mere personal security of the individual, we need not be surprised, that a restoration of the mind to a healthy state should so seldom happen. The results of experiments in other states and countries are, however so perfectly well authenticated and so highly favorable, that no doubt can now be entertained that lunacy yields as readily to skilful medical treatment and proper regimen, when combined with judicious and humane care and attention, as most of the other diseases incident to mankind. Reports from some of the best conducted retreats in England and the United States show, that of patients received within three months of the first attack the proportion recovered is more than 90 percent; of those admitted after three and within twelve months the ratio recoveries is as 25 to 41; and when the disease is of more than two years standing, the average of cases is somewhat less than 20 per cent. These statements establish the importance of saving,

in some convenient part of the state, a place where patients of this description can be received, with as little delay as possible after the commencement of the disease and before improper management shall have aggravated its character and lessened the chances of cure." After recommending an accurate census of the insane he further remarks; "Should the inquiry be faithfully made, it is believed that these unfortunate persons would be found to be so numerous and their sufferings in the aggregate so great as to persuade every considerate friend of his species, that something should be done for their relief. They can look for help only to those whose official stations give them the means, as they impose the duty of watching over and promoting the happiness of all."

Pursuant to his recommendation, the first very imperfect returns were made to the succeeding legislature and in his next message Gov. D. presses the subject upon their consideration. "I have never lost," he says, the hope of seeing at an early period, a zealous co-operation of the several branches of the Government with the friends of suffering humanity in promoting a charity so plainly recommended by the principle of our religion and by every consideration of justice and philanthropy. While the most liberal provision is made for the victims of their own idleness and vice, with an inconsistency not easily accounted for, we abandon those who are afflicted with a calamity of all others demanding sympathy and aid, to a state of unrelieved wretchedness and almost hopeless incurability. From a somewhat attentive examination of the history of experiments undertaken elsewhere for the security and recovery of the insane, I have no doubt remaining that policy as well as humanity require of us something in behalf of that unfortunate class.—Our resources are infinitely ample for accomplishing this object, but should there be an unwillingness to appropriate the state funds to the extent required, there can be no doubt that a liberal and christian community would cheerfully supply the deficiency. Nothing could be more truly honorable to our state character, or give stronger proof that we are willing to assist in the triumph of modern civilization."

It was not to be expected that a subject so entirely novel as this to the great bulk of our citizens should be at once carried into action. The succeeding chief magistrate expressed his approbation of the measure by assuming the language of his predecessor; another census more complete than the former but still far behind the truth was taken; some judicious legislative action was had, indicative of a want of sufficient information in the premises, and the

topic was referred from one session to another; never rejected, but evidently considered as requiring still further investigation. It was evident to the friends of the measure that a powerful change was working in its favor; the legislature representing, as it valuably does in our state from the limited space of its sessions and frequent rotation of its members, the views, feelings and wishes of the people at large, evidently entertained a different view of its expediency from that with which it had entered the walls of the capitol. The public press too had without exception evinced a true understanding of the merits of the case and the tone of public sentiment so far as expressed was in its favor.

The session of last June was opened with far different impressions of the expediency of establishing a Hospital from those of my former period. A third census had been taken of the Insane, which carried conviction to every mind of the terrible condition and unexpected numbers of the lunatics. A circumstance will show that even now when so many appalling facts have been collected respecting the number and condition of our insane, enough surely to induce action if any such facts can wake up our citizens, the returns in regard to them are exceedingly incomplete and imperfect. Spending some little time at the McLean Asylum last week, the writer examined particularly the patients from our State, who were found to be nine in number, (about one sixth of the inmates,) and comprising some very interesting cases, the young, the beautiful and the educated. On my return home, examining the abstract of the three returns to the legislature, no less than eight of these cases, and several were of many years duration, were not to be found as having been returned!

Facts also had been more generally spread abroad as to the exact measures to be taken in establishing such an institution as well as the results to be expected from it, deduced from the experience of parallel institutions elsewhere. Another chief magistrate gave his warm and decisive approbation in favor of immediate action.

But there is left an object of public charity that perhaps more than any other deserves consideration. I am happy to see the public attention in this State called to it, and the degree of zeal with which hundreds have embarked in a cause so interesting to humanity. If it be the duty of legislatures to promote the cultivation of the human intellect by providing for the general education of our youth—if it be their duty to provide for the sustenance of such as cannot sustain themselves—how much higher the obligation to furnish means of comfort for the poor insane? Bereft of reason, a

simple supply of the wants of nature is not all that is required for them. It has been found that a certain course of treatment, under competent physical and intellectual management, may restore to usefulness hundreds who without such treatment will be forever lost to themselves and their fellow men. An Asylum in this State, at which provision can be made for the permanently deranged as for the recovery of those of whom hopes may be entertained, would do credit to the cause of humanity.

"Such an institution, with the aid of an outlay by the State, it is believed, could be so managed as nearly as to defray its expenses. It might be conducted under the State authorities, or it might be managed by Trustees with such occasional aid from the State Treasury or from any fund provided by the State as should be deemed indispensable. The expenses of the State Government are almost exclusively defrayed by a direct tax upon the people; and it is desirable permanent expenses that can be avoided should be dispensed with. But so loud the cry of human suffering upon the generosity, if not upon the justice of the State, that it may be hoped the representatives of the people, expressing their wishes and feeling on the subject, *will consider the time as having arrived when the foundation of such an institution can be laid.*" The short session of the legislature necessarily prevented any decision until autumn, although from the prompt and unanimous readiness with which the report of the committee on the subject was ordered to be published for the information of the people and from the feeling generally prevalent, little doubt can exist that a large majority of the representatives see their way clearly to take immediate action on the subject. A proposition was made to refer the decision on this question, as one involving considerable expenditure directly to the people in their meetings; the friends of the measure at once confidently accepted the issue, and by the almost unanimous voice of their representatives the enlightened, humane and good voters of New Hampshire are called upon on the seventh of November next to decide the question at the head of these articles: *Is it expedient for the State to grant an appropriation to build an Asylum Hospital?*

The consideration of the probable fate of this measure if then by any accident or indifference it should be rejected, will be continued in our next.

In our last number the belief was confidently expressed that a majority of the present Legislature are in favor of establishing an

hospital for imbeciles in this State. The session of June was however too short, an autumnal meeting being determined upon, to allow the expectation of any measures being then decided upon, and there seemed a peculiar propriety as well as an unanimous willingness that the final decision of the question should be referred directly to the voters themselves. Two motives co-operated in producing this unanimity:—those who had doubts whether an appropriation would meet the wishes of their constituents, would have the responsibility transferred where it would be willingly assumed, to the people themselves while the friends of the measure felt so confident of the favorable disposition of the community that they relied on them for so unanimous and overwhelming a voice as its force as should justify a certain, direct, liberal and immediate appropriation, resting on no contingencies and shackled with no conditions, as would certainly and adequately secure the objects. And nothing has yet occurred to make the last regret having so willingly and freely relinquished the hopes of this cause to the good sense, the generosity and the justice of the enlightened citizens of New Hampshire. Thus far, everything bearing upon its prospects has seemed to work together in its favor. If there were any who might doubt the ability of our comparatively small and but moderately wealthy state to engage in this expenditure, the almost providentially decimated of the surplus funds, for which or even any portion of its income there seems as yet no other purpose hardly suggested or generally agreed upon, must have entirely extinguished any such apprehensions. This subject has, to the honor of our leading citizens and the public press be it spoken, been kept unentangled by and disconnected from all foreign political or local considerations. Our public journals have all exhibited the utmost readiness to urge its claims;—our largest towns and villages have almost all held public meetings in its favor. No open objections have been encountered, nor has any concealed or indirect opposition been heard of, nor is any apprehended; but numerous, powerful and influential friends are everywhere disinterestedly exerting themselves in its behalf. What then, with every present prospect so auspicious, can endanger and eventually sacrifice this cause at the ballot-box? A single reason can by any possibility efface such a result, and this is neglect and indifference on the part of those who have investigated and informed themselves on the true merits of the question. These, however it may be with others less informed, can have but a dis-

gle opinion on its expediency;—from such, we have never heard any discrepancy of sentiment. But from those, who from situation, inclination or accidents have never instructed themselves on the subject or who may have imbibed some of those vague prejudices always floating in a community against such institutions, is it not right and natural to expect a refusal to authorize an appropriation? Such persons are not yet satisfied of its expediency; when in doubt, it cannot be denied that duty calls upon them to vote in the negative; they ought not, unconvinced, to vote away public property. It is such, from whom an unfavorable decision is to be apprehended, and such result can only be expected, if those who feel satisfied that this measure is called for by the public good, remain inactive and indifferent in convincing others, or who are so deaf to what to them must be imperative duty, as to expect depositing their affirmative vote on the question.

If this measure now fails before the people, can any hope for its future success be reasonably indulged? Certainly the General Court cannot be expected to set indirect and immediate contravention of the expressed wishes of their constituents. If an appeal hereafter to the people shall be again suggested, what more favorable or promising concatenation of circumstances can ever be found than now exists in this behalf? We can ask for none, we can conceive of none. If with the conclusive evidence, the overwhelming multiplicity of facts, demonstrating the expediency and necessity of an Asylum, and which are now new, startling and impressive, the public mind is not awakened and impressed, it will be marred hereafter when those pitious histories shall be a three fold tale? Time enough has elapsed for the proper investigation of the facts, for them to have a convincing influence if a certain longer period will render them stale, flat and unprofitable. Already the fate of scores of the insane has been sealed since this subject has been before our citizens for their conclusion. In those fifty years, many a wretched case has been added to the gloomy list of the hopeless, and the aggregate woe, which might have been spared, of four hundred lunatics for that long period, what tongue can utter or what heart can conceive? If while involved with all adventitious connections, and open to the exertions of all classes in politics or religion as well as in every local situation, the cause of the insane cannot force its way to general favor, how can it prevail when sectional, local, political or other adverse motives are arrayed against it, as may be the case hereafter?

If with an overflowing treasury, so full that ingenuity has not

even devised any feasible or generally received plan for its application, a doubt can prevail as to the ability of the people to meet such an enterprise, how can it be hoped for in that contingency of our state affairs by no means impossible, when there would be no funds except from direct taxation?

If with the warm approbation of the executive in its favor and the concurrent feeling of both branches of its legislature, the people decline giving the authority for the appropriation, what prospect is there if any or all these bodies should be hereafter of different views? An honest regard to these considerations, it is believed, must convince the friends of the insane that the exertions they now make in their behalf are for the last time. If they are not now crowned with success, there can be no reason to hope for any more favorable, future results;—duty would henceforward seem to prescribe for their efforts some other channel of benevolence, where successful results of good would not be so problematical. This reflection too, that this is the last probable opportunity of publicly benefitting this hapless class, should induce every voter when called to decide the question to act as he may wish he had done when next he sees the haggard inmate of some freezing cage or his hardly less to be pitied kindred?

II.

INSANE HOSPITAL.

In our paper of this week we conclude a series of numbers on the question of the expediency of founding an Insane Hospital in this State, which our readers will recollect is to be submitted for decision to the voters at the November meetings. The facts which have been adduced, evidently the result of considerable investigation of the subject, we trust, have been carefully considered, for they would appear to form a sufficient basis for a correct judgment.

We shall here present a brief analysis of some of the most striking statistical statements as to the number and condition of the insane, proposing hereafter to make some remarks respecting the results fairly to be anticipated from an institution, as well as the probable expenditures requisite for carrying the object into effect. We would here express our entire coincidence in opinion with our correspondent that there can hardly be a difference of sentiment on the disposition of this question among those who have investigated and examined it; for apart from all considerations of humanity and the distribution of equal justice to all classes of the unfortunate, modern experience in lunatic asylums demonstrates

that public policy and actual economy of expenditure are best subserved by this provision for the recovery and safe custody of the insane.

The number of inmates actually returned in this State was 312, and more than one-third of the population was not heard from; hence the entire number is no doubt over 400. This proportion agrees with the general results of other States in which the insane have been enumerated by census, and have been found to be rather more than one in every thousand, without including idiots, imbeciles from old age, &c. Of these inmates of our State about one quarter are known to be kept confined. After all, such a fact as that stated by our correspondent last week, shows that even yet the full extent of this evil is not accurately known; he remarks that on examining the insane inmates at the Asylum at Charlestown, Mass. recently, eight out of the nine citizens of this State, had not been included in either of the official returns of our insane!

The condition of our insane as developed within a year or two is truly appalling. It is very similar to that in Massachusetts, a few years since, as reported by the Commissioners for erecting the Worcester Hospital, and no doubt the facts on this point are identical throughout the country, wherever no public provision for this unfortunate class has been made. If no other benefit results from the movement in behalf of the insane, the dreadful and frequently fatal cases of the insane of neglect and cruelty will be less likely to be repeated, since the attention of the public will be awake to such horrible abuses.

INSANE HOSPITAL.

In our last week's paper, we expressed our decided conviction that the time is arrived when some measures should be taken for the relief of the insane, and especially the pauper insane of our State, whose numbers and present condition have been found to speak so loudly. That such relief would be found in a Hospital for their cure and safe keeping seems proved by sufficient experience elsewhere, and that this result can be obtained at a moderate cost is evidenced by the success of that at Worcester; in which if the detailed official reports can be relied upon, the actual cost of every patient, including every expense and contingency, does not exceed the probable previous charge of the same subject before entering the institution. If to this be added the probability of restoration, which would of course save further expenditure for the account of

the insane and those dependant upon him, the relief of the anxiety of friends and the safety of the community, there would seem to be no room for doubt that the means of relieving the lunatic is of the highest and most unquestionable value, and deserves to be initiated by all communities where it is practicable. We are satisfied that true policy and economy as well as humanity require that our citizens should express their assent to the proposed measure at the ensuing meetings.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

Most cheerfully do we comply with a request to insert in our columns the following call for a general meeting at Portsmouth, designed to bring out and so embody public sentiment, that it may be rendered effectual to the adoption of proper measures for the relief of a most unfortunate and pitiable class of the community. We rejoice to witness this movement by the intelligent and philanthropic citizens of our commercial metropolis, and we trust it will be powerfully seconded by those in either sections. Every sentiment of benevolence, every feeling of humanity demands that something be immediately done to ameliorate the condition, alleviate the sufferings and mitigate the woes of more than three hundred miserable lunatics lingering in the "night of living death" within our borders. But to effect anything, the popular mind must be aroused from the lethargic apathy in which it has too long reposed. Information must be diffused among the people, and a full knowledge of the distress and wretchedness actually existing among them, alas truths of which might readily and at once be removed by the establishment of an asylum for the insane, be brought home to their bosoms: and for doing this no time can be more opportune than the present. The subject of erecting a Hospital has been repeatedly before our Legislature, and, at its last, a resolution making appropriations for that purpose was postponed to its next session. This resolution will accordingly again come before them, and it is highly important that, ere the period for acting upon it arrives, public opinion in relation to the expediency and necessity of its adoption should be known and expressed. To this end the proposed convention is calculated to contribute, and we therefore hope it may be numerously attended. We hope also that similar meetings may be holden in other parts of the state. Would it not accomplish much for the cause, if its friends in Keene, Hanover, Haverhill, Plymouth, and other towns, will imitate the example of those at Portsmouth?

PUBLIC MEETING.

We the undersigned, being sensible of the extreme suffering of the Insane Poor of this State, and fully impressed with the necessity of Legislative action for their relief, deem it our duty to call the attention of our fellow citizens to the subject. We, therefore invite those who are in favor of the proposed "Asylum for the Insane" to meet together in Portsmouth, on the first Wednesday in April. The hour and place of meeting will be hereafter designated and published.

The object of this call is to fix public attention upon the importance and necessity of attending to this unfortunate class of men that relief which private charity cannot impart. This meeting is not intended to change public opinion. It matter not how strong may be the feelings of individuals in favor of relief for the Insane; their unexpressed, unknown, good wishes can effect nothing; they must be publicly manifested that they may have their proper influence on the Government of the State. It is well known that public opinion has been regularly strengthening in favor of this benevolent project. Many it is true, are still indifferent, but this, we are persuaded arises from ignorance of the situation of the Insane in our State; and we seldom, if ever, meet any one decidedly opposed to Legislative action for their relief. How can it be otherwise? Is it not established as truth, that in the State of New Hampshire there are at least two hundred and fifty insane persons, most of whom are exposed to the most intense physical sufferings, some lying hopelessly in our County jails, many confined in cages, others in cellars and garrets, whose lives are one long night of darkness and despair, without one ray of hope, one gleam of comfort? Unquestionably it is so; and equally undeniable is it, that had our Insane at an early period of the disease, been placed in an Asylum, more than ninety out of the hundred would at this time have been useful, respectable and happy; and even now from one third to one-half of those afflicted can be restored to perfect health by the proper treatment in a Hospital, and even the incurable may be rendered perfectly comfortable. The conclusion is irresistible, that the intense suffering of the Insane arises not so much from the nature of the malady, as from inattention, ignorance, or neglect.

With this conclusion forced upon us by an investigation of the subject, it is painful to reflect that year after year passes away and nothing is done. The means of relief are in our hands, yet we appear contented to leave the subject to the Legislature without the

least manifestation of our wishes that the means should be used, And it is not surprising that our legislature has made no appropriation, when nothing but indifference and apathy appears on the part of the people. The result of this procrastination is the continuation of the severe, unmitigated, and unnecessary suffering of the Insane, and the daily augmentation of the numbers of those whose reason is quenched forever on earth.

If the object be thus valuable; if the common feelings of humanity prompt us to exert ourselves, if a suitable provision for the Insane be a debt which the prosperous and happy owe to the afflicted and suffering, let us not shrink from our duty, let us not delay the work by our indifference. There is a responsibility resting on each of the citizens of this State. If, therefore, we do not accomplish the object, let us resolve that the failure shall not be caused by our apathy and neglect. All those in other towns of the State who feel an interest in the condition of the Insane, are respectfully invited to attend the meeting, and to co-operate with the citizens of Portsmouth. [Signed by sixty four respectable citizens of Portsmouth.]

[Although we regret that a feeling of hostility to so benevolent an object as the establishment of an Asylum for Insane, should be cherished in any part of the State, or that the efforts now making for the amelioration of the condition of that unfortunate class of persons, should meet with opposition from any of the citizens of a community, celebrated for their benevolence and humanity, as are the people of New Hampshire, yet we do not feel at liberty to exclude from our columns, the communication which follows. The subject is one on which the people of this State will soon be called to act,—is open to discussion, and the writer, although his opinion on the subject is adverse to our own, has an undoubted right to be heard.]

For the N. H. Patriot.

THE INSANE ASYLUM.

The time will soon arrive when the inhabitants of the State of New Hampshire will be called upon to express their sentiments in public meeting, respecting the expediency of erecting and supporting an insane asylum in said State; and as this is a subject of no ordinary magnitude, it ought not to be acted on without caution and consideration. Our Legislature, aware of this, have done themselves honour in referring the matter to their constituents,

though perhaps under no obligation so to do. According to the report of the committee of the House of Representatives, there are 153 towns which have been returned, 223 insane persons, all of which are found in 141 towns,—29 towns having no insane. Of the 223 insane, 152 are supported entirely at a public charge, and the number returned as confined, either in cages, jails, close rooms, chains, handcuffs, &c. is 81, a few of whom are reported as sometimes confined. The whole expense of erecting and furnishing the asylum, is stated at about \$21,000, and the annual expense of supporting 120 patients in the asylum, at about \$9,150 more.

Now fellow-citizens, the question is, whether you are willing, individually, to pay your proportion of this sum of \$21,000 to begin with, and of the annual sum of \$9,150 to keep the establishment in operation. You will consider that though this project is founded on the principles of humanity and benevolence, yet the result is doubtful; and though the anticipated benefit of the asylum, should never be realized, the rich, who always have their ways and their means, would feel but little pressure from the taxes, whereas the middle class (the poor exempted) would feel the loss more sensibly. It is stated by the Committee, that from information received from the superintendent of an insane asylum in the State of New York, that in a period of 14 years, 1772 patients were admitted, of whom 774 were cured, 309 improved, 129 died, and 448 were discharged, eloped, or considered as improper subjects. In a medical work (well known to the faculty) it is stated that in a department of France, from the year 1801 to 1812, 2801 patients entered an insane asylum, of whom 604 recovered in the first year, 602 the 2d, 80 the 3d, and 41 in the seven following years, and of one twentieth of those who recovered, the slightest causes endangered a return of insanity.

It is natural to suppose that those who are so unfortunate as to have friends who are insane, would choose to take care of them themselves, rather than to send them among strangers, though ever so kind; and that most of the insane, who have homes, would choose to live with their friends. Indeed so irritable are the nerves of some persons, that even the idea of being separated from their friends, and shut up in hellion among a company of strange-faced humies, would almost if not quite, cause them to become insane, if they were never so before. All circumstances considered, would it not be advisable to postpone the building of an insane hospital, until more information can be obtained as to the real benefit of such an establishment? Especially as it must

be borne in mind that though hospital discipline cures some who are insane, yet in others it aggravates the malady.

A VOTER.

Meredith, Sept. 27, 1836.

THE INSANE ASYLUM.

"A Voter" falls into some, no doubt unintentional errors, in his communication. I say unintentional because the general candid character of his notice shews that his views are honest, and result only from the evident fact that he has not inquired or reflected much or long upon the subject. It is for this reason he advises a postponement "until more information can be obtained as to the real benefit of such an establishment."

He evidently mistakes his own want of acquaintance with this subject for a general fact. In this he is evidently in error; the *intelligent* and *sagacious* citizens of New Hampshire have not had this subject under consideration for five years, have not had it urged upon their attention by executive message, every year since, by report after report of their legislatures, by the continual efforts of the public press, by documents spread far and wide, by public meetings in almost all our considerable places, with so little effect as to need any further delay for them to inform themselves. Is there any one point on which the fullest and most authentic data for action are not now before the public? The numbers, condition, expense, results elsewhere every thing which the most cautious prudence could require for judicious conclusion, are before the public and within reach of every individual who wishes to inform himself, and the facts have generally been improved; though it is quite probable that the attention of "a voter" has been too recently awakened for him to be aware how much in advance of him the great body of the people are. But "better late than never!" a diligent and serious attention to this subject during the five weeks now prior to election, may convince him that any further delay is inconsistent with justice, expediency or humanity.

A very important error, (no doubt clerical) in his communication deserves to be corrected; he states the number of the insane to be 225, when there are, as actually known, 312, and in all human probability (if the parts not heard from have as many as the rest of the State,) exceed 400! And probably over 100 are confined in cages, cellars, &c. enduring tortures more than hospital.

With respect to his novel, unproved and unfounded suggestion, that an asylum ever aggravates the malady;—if there is “the shadow of a shank” of any such evidence will ‘a voter’ produce it? It will be then time to combat for a principle established for centuries and never before, to our knowledge, denied or even questioned. That a man who quotes a medical book, should hint so preposterous an idea and refer to it as if it had any where else been proved or believed—as one “which must especially be borne in mind,” is proof that his medical studies must have begun and ended in the single statement he has quoted. If there ever was a principle in medical treatment grounded beyond dispute, established beyond gaining, settled beyond a rehearing, it is this, in the words of the celebrated medical jurist, Beck, that it is the peculiar and undeniably characteristic of insanity, which forbids any reasonable hope of cure unless the diseased subject is removed from his home and relatives.” A single representation in this article savours of unfairness. The question is, he says, whether the citizens are willing to pay their proportion of the first cost and *annual expense* of a hospital? thus giving the impression that this institution is to cost over \$2000 a year to be received by tax from the people. The readers of the public prints and reports are aware that no such scheme was ever designed or suggested; that no plan has ever been proposed in the legislature or openly elsewhere, based on having the inmates of our Hospital maintained in any other mode than the present, that is, those having ability by their own means and the poor by the counties, towns, or relatives liable for them, selecting or declining the proffered advantages of an asylum, as their own views of expediency or interest should dictate.

“A Voter” speaks of the proposed hospital as if it were an experiment; no doubt he is sincere; to one unacquainted with the thorough, long tried and successful results effected within 25 miles of our State line, it may all appear novel and experimental, but to those who like a great proportion of our citizens have some knowledge of the subject, there seems nothing uncertain or doubtful. The true issue before the people is not that stated by him. It is whether the people of New Hampshire, after their mature deliberation of five years, with every possible fact in the premises before them, and in the light of exactly identical institutions in Massachusetts and other states will bestow enough from their overflowing abundance to build and furnish an Hospital, which hereafter will be of little or no cost to the people at large, disbanding materially the charge to those now burdened with the insane, restoring almost

all recent cases, annihilate all, and save an amount of mental and bodily anguish beyond description or belief?

ANOTHER VOTER.

MEETING AT GILMANTON.

At a large and respectable meeting of the citizens of Gilmanton, holden agreeably to previous notice, on the 17th inst. at the Hall of the Academy, for the purpose of taking into consideration the call of their fellow citizens of Portsmouth for a convention to devise measures for securing the establishment of an Asylum for the Insane in this State, after an address by Charles H. Peaslee, Esq. of this town on the utility, importance and necessity of the object proposed to be accomplished the following resolutions were introduced by a committee, appointed for that purpose, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the success which has attended the providing of Hospitals for the reception of the insane in Europe and in neighboring States should stimulate us and our State government in this work of benevolence.

Resolved, That the practice of confining insane persons in jails and in houses of correction with criminals and persons charged with the commission of crimes, discards the distinction between *criminality* and *guilt*, and punishes the misfortunes which it is the duty of society to relieve.

Resolved, That since the cleaving fact has been demonstrated that insanity is a disease easily cured, it has become one of the most imperative duties of every government to provide suitable institutions for the reception and remedial treatment of the insane.

Resolved, that we approve of the meeting to be held at Portsmouth on the first Wednesday of April next, pursuant to the call of the citizens of Portsmouth, and that John S. Skinner, Jeremiah Wilson, Stephen Moody, John Ham, M. Andrew Mack, David Benn, Jonathan Farrar, Samuel Cate and Peter Clarke be requested to attend from this town as delegates to said meeting.

Resolved, That Nahum Night, Jonathan Clark and Caleb Webster, be a committee to draft a memorial and procure signatures to be presented to the next Legislature of this State in behalf of the unfortunate class of our fellow beings.

THE INSANE.

A meeting was held at the Court House on Thursday last on this

subject B. Bradley, Esq. in the Chair, and Doctor Ezra Carter, Secretary. After the passage of resolutions approving of the object, the following delegates were chosen to attend the meeting at Portsmouth on Wednesday next: Nathaniel Benson, Hall Biegin, Joseph Low, Charles H. Peaslee, Thomas Chadbourne, Richard Bradley, Theodore French, Ezra Carter, William Kent, Benj. Gale, Timothy Chandler, Cyrus Bartiss, Geo. W. Ela, Jacob B. Moore, E. E. Cummings, Samuel Herbert and Wm. Gault.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

We regret, that we have not room in this week's paper, to publish an account of the meeting held at Portsmouth on the 6th inst. The towns in the vicinity were most of them represented there and some of our largest of the interior. In addition, letters were received from about thirty other towns, and all of which, except two, represented the inhabitants as earnestly in favor of the erection of an Asylum and both of the writers of these, were in favor of the object themselves but thought it doubtful whether their citizens were. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Combs, Grosvenor, Bartlett, Cheever and Burroughs of Portsmouth and Peaslee of Concord. A further account of the proceedings and speeches shall appear in our next.

PUBLIC MEETING IN PORTSMOUTH ON THE SUBJECT OF AN ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The citizens of Portsmouth, and delegates from several other towns in this State, in compliance with previous public notice, assembled at the Methodist Chapel, in State street, Portsmouth, on the evening of the 6th of April, 1830.

The meeting was called to order by John Rice, on whose nomination, DAVID P. DROWN was chosen President, and on motion of Ichabod Grosvenor, WILLIAM H. V. HUCKLE was appointed Sec'y. Mr. Drown, on taking the chair, stated the object of the meeting; recapitulated the causes which had heretofore prevented the adoption of any effectual means to provide for the insane of this State, and noticed the gratifying indication that these causes were likely not much longer to exist, and expressed his sympathy in the objects contemplated in the meeting.

At the request of the President, Mr. Chamberlain, Pastor of the Methodist Church, opened the meeting by prayer.

Mr. Cones presented the following resolutions, 1. Resolved, That it is the duty of communities to relieve those calamities, which from their peculiar character and extent, are beyond the reach of individual benevolence.

2. Resolved, That well ascertained facts show that the disease of insanity is extensive, and that it yields to moral and medical treatment.

3. Resolved, That long and uniform experience proves that the most successful remedies for insanity can be applied only by means of a well regulated public institution.

4. Resolved, That provision ought to be made by the Legislature of this State, for the erection of an Asylum for the Insane.

5. Resolved, That a committee of nine, to be designated by the Chair, be appointed to correspond with gentlemen in the various parts of this State, and to act in concert with such committees as may be appointed for the purpose of calling attention to the wants of the Insane and the appropriate remedies.

6. Resolved, That a committee of nine, to be designated by the chair, be appointed to prepare a petition and procure signatures to be presented to the next Legislature, requesting an appropriation for the purpose of establishing, within this State, an Asylum for the Insane.

7. Resolved, That for the purpose of diffusing correct information, it is advisable that the friends of the object of the meeting in the several towns in this State, be requested to meet in their respective towns, and to appoint committees of correspondence; and also committees to procure signatures to petitions to be presented to the Legislature in June next, for an adequate appropriation to defray the expense of erecting the proposed asylum.

8. Resolved, That the President and Secretary be requested to furnish to each member of the General Court a copy of the proceedings of this meeting.

The resolutions were supported, and the claims of the Insane upon the sympathy and aid of the people of this State enforced in addresses from Samuel E. Cones, of Portsmouth; Charles H. Pease, of Concord; Almer Greenwood, Ichabod Bartlett, Charles A. Chesser, Charles Burroughs, of Portsmouth; and George Gardner of Exeter.

The resolutions then passed unanimously.

The Chair announced the following named gentlemen to constitute the Committee of Correspondence, in pursuance of the provisions of the 5th resolution.

Samuel E. Coates, Thomas B. Loughton, S. Chamberlain, Nehemiah Moses, Charles W. Remondet, John Loughton, Eliza C. Crane, Abner Greenleaf, Charles A. Cheever.

The Chair also announced the following gentlemen, to constitute the Committee to prepare a memorial, and procure signatures, in pursuance of the provisions of the sixth resolution.

Charles Burroughs, Benjamin Carter, Jr., Lillabod Goodwin, John N. Nutter, John Rice, John Christy, James Perkins, Richard Justice, Thomas Clapton.

On motion of Andrew P. Peabody, Ordered, That the President and Secretary be requested to cause the proceedings of this meeting to be published.

On motion of Charles W. Cutter, Ordered, That the editors of the several newspapers in this State, be requested to publish the proceedings of this meeting in their respective journals.

On motion of John Rice, Resolved, That this meeting now adjourn without delay.

DANIEL P. DROWN, President.

W. H. Y. HACKETT, Secretary.

Mr. Geo. Gardiner, of Exeter, opened the discussion with a few remarks in approbation of the object of the meeting.

Samuel E. Coates, Esq., then introduced the resolutions with a statement of the facts in relation to the introduction of the subject to our Legislature five years since, by the late Gov. Dixwiler, and the results of the inquiries which that body ordered as to the number and situation of the insane in N. H. The returns made at the next session, presented a mass of extremes and unallegated suffering arising from the want of suitable provision for inmates. But Mr. C. continued—the subject was a new one for legislation and it was postponed until the next session. The subject has been kept alive at each succeeding session, without any great increase of the numbers in favor of a definite action in favor of the plan. The chief obstacle has been the difference and apathy of the people. The Legislature appeared to wait for the action of their constituents—to ascertain their wishes ere they would make the appropriation. But remarked Mr. C.—we are happy to see that the people are awakening to a sense of their duty. The interest in attend-

ing this meeting is a strong evidence of the fact—for, about 50 towns of our State are represented here this evening by letter or by delegates. The delegates and correspondents giving flattering accounts of the state of public opinion in their respective towns; and besides the papers are full of calls for meetings for this purpose, to be held in every section of the State.

With regard to the number of the insane, and the extent of their sufferings, he said that by the returns made in other States, corroborated by the returns from some sections of New Hampshire, certainly one in a thousand are afflicted with insanity. This would give to our State no less than *three hundred* unfortunate individuals, most of whom are now shut out from the world—incapable of its enjoyments—and in many cases deprived of many comforts which even brutes enjoy. No less than 75 have been reported in this State who are now confined in cages, cellars, in garrets, in out-houses and in jails—and this too of individuals who once adorned their rank in society, but now distastefully secluded as the noon-day sun hides in the tempest cloud. He spoke of an individual who had been in confinement more than thirty years—most of the time in chains—his dirty pallet, like the dog's cot strewn around with the bones he fed upon. Also of a lady who is now a cripple, from many years close confinement. Of a lunatic being confined in a cellar, who had not been seen for months, and was fed through a trough in an opening in the wall. He also very feelingly adverted to other cases, in illustration of the sufferings of the insane; among them not the least touching was the following, which few can read, without the tear of sympathy:—A gentleman travelling in N. H., was overtaken by a storm, and compelled to put up for the night at a farm house. The night was boisterous; but the noise of the elements was not sufficient to shut from his ears the moans and cries of distress which seemed to be near the dwelling. The night was dark he could discover nothing from his window. In the morning he sought and found an inmate boy, confined in a pig sty, retired to the most distant part to escape the storm, and yet continuing his mournful cry—"Father! Father!"

Mr. C. remarked that the disease was a curable one. Experience has shown that about 50 in 100 of new cases have yielded to medical treatment. The proper treatment cannot, however be had, without a Hospital where experienced attendants understand the wants and mode of treatment of the insane; where they can be placed in such a situation, that in their brief intervals they may

not be driven at once into madness from a consideration of the situation in which they are placed. He made a strong appeal to those who live in the light of the present day, when facts so strongly prove the justice of the call of humanity for an institution for the Insane; for if in future time the cages, the dungeons, and the chains of the Insane are suffered to exist in our State, it will be because we are indifferent to one of the most important subjects of benevolence which can engage our attention.

CHARLES H. PRASLER, Esq., of Concord, after the reading of the resolutions, rose and said:—That many of us were told last evening by a lecturer on this subject, that the present age is emphatically an age of benevolence. He said it is true that the present age is no less remarkable for the liberality of the humane, than for powerful intellectual exertion and political revolutions. He alluded to the relief which is afforded to the blind, the deaf and dumb, the poor and the distressed of almost every class; and said, that even the idle and vicious, the guilty criminals of our penitentiaries, are compelled to acknowledge, (such had been the efforts of late to improve their physical, religious and intellectual condition) that there is some disinterested kindness extant, and that man does feel for his fellow man. He did not wish to divert the streams of benevolence, but he considered the indifference to the wretchedness of our Insane, which has until recently existed in this State, unaccountable, except it was from ignorance of their situation, while so much had been done to enlighten the heathen of foreign countries; and he thought it more strange that the same persons should pass heedlessly by the foul-smelling dungeon of the guilless madman, who were so earnestly engaged in improving the condition of convicts. He was rejoiced that the people were manifesting their determination that those who were devoid of criminality but deprived of their reason, should not be much longer confined to our jails, with indicted persons accused of every degree of crime, and to have a different treatment adopted towards our Insane; for he said that the present was in its general tendency precisely such, as is calculated to fix the disease more firmly upon the attacked.

The same remark he thought might be applied to our State which was made by the best authority in reference to Massachusetts previous to the erection of an Hospital at Worcester, viz:—That were a system now to be devised, whose express object it should be to drive every victim of insanity beyond the limits of hope, it would scarcely be within the power of a perverse ingenuity to suggest one more *aggravated* in its general tendency, than

that which has been, and is now in practical operation amongst us. He believed only two or three instances of recovery from insanity were ever known during confinement of a person to a jail or house of correction.—Among medical men there was one point on which there was great uniformity of opinion, and that is, the importance of separating the patient from his family and customary associations. But our insane must from necessity be either wandering about to the danger of the public, or under the care of their friends, or confined to jails or houses of correction.—He maintained therefore, that the necessary curative remedies could not be had while we were destitute of an asylum. The institutions in Massachusetts were not at all times accessible to even those of our insane, who were able to pay the charges, it being from \$1.50 to \$20 per week. Within a period of five months 25 applications were made for admission at Worcester, of these 47 were received, and 46 rejected, for want of room.

It was the unanimous opinion of the committee of our Legislature in 1834, also the committee in 1835, to which this subject was referred, that the expense of erecting a building like that at Worcester and furnishing the rooms, (calculated to accommodate 150 patients) would not exceed \$25,000 exclusive of slating the roof, and that the expense of supporting that number would not exceed \$80 per year each exclusive of clothing. The number of insane in the 48 towns reported to our last legislature was 115, of whom 55 were males and 62 females. The duration of their insanity varied from 2 to 55 years. The whole number of years all had been insane collectively was 1527. Of them more than half were supported as paupers, and about one-fifth by friends not legally liable for their support. In only 3 cases was the expense of supporting them mentioned and these were town paupers—two of them cost \$100 per year each, the other \$5.50 per week. There was one town pauper supported at the private institution at Pepperell, but the expense was not reported. If the insane throughout the State be in proportion to the towns heard from, according to the population, the whole number would be 517. But this, he said was probably larger than the actual number, and not near all would be suitable subjects for an Hospital. The whole number of years of their insanity would be 2038. If nine tenths of this insanity could have been avoided, (and he maintained that nearly that amount could have been, had the proper medical and moral treatment been applied in the first stages of the disease,) the saving to the State and individuals in a pecuniary point of

rien would have been immense, to say nothing of the thousands of years of mental anguish also avoided. He then spoke of the blessings which such an institution would confer not only upon the insane individual, his family and friends, but also society at large, by returning some of our most talented and virtuous citizens to the duties of life.

He insisted upon the indispensable necessity of an Hospital to receive our insane, as proved by the experience of our own and other States and statistical information furnished by reports on this subject.

To imagine that the people of N. H. if acquainted with their deplorable condition and the advantages to be derived from such an institution would hold back would be a slanderous imputation upon their humanity, their intelligence and sense of justice. He alluded to the Turk's answer, to the question of a Captain of a trading ship: *Where is your jail for the punishment of debtors?* who replied "that the believers in their prophet were above shutting up their fellow men in cages to persecute and torment them; that he had never looked at one of our debtor's prisons without horror." After describing the barbarous manner, in which some of the insane were treated in States, where provision for them was similar to ours, and also the extreme sufferings of many among us, he said that such cases would not make an impression on the same Turk either favorable to our religion or to our Constitution and laws.

The plea of ignorance, he said could no longer avail us, and if we continued our present system we were equally barbarous, with those who who doled insane to death. In fact he said sudden death were mercy, kindness, in comparison to the lingering one, to which the friendless insane were liable to be doomed, by our present laws. He was happy to perceive the interest and excitement on this subject which existed here and in other parts of the State—hoped it would continue, growing stronger and stronger until it reached every nook and corner, and until it excited our Government to erect an asylum—to do us all demanded by justice, humanity, economy and sound policy.

THE INSANE.

We have seen a circular issued by the committee (consisting of J. H. Peabody, Concord; J. Sullivan Exeter; John T. Peabody,

Meredith; Luke Woodbury, Andover; George Huntington, Walsote; John Bryant, Plainfield; Ira Perley, Haveror; and Jared W. Williams, Lancaster;) appointed under the resolution of our last Legislature requiring, "That a committee be appointed consisting of one member from each county of this State—that it shall be the duty of each member of said committee to ascertain the number of insane persons in each town in the county in which he resides—how long each has been insane—whether such persons are supported at public or private expense—if supported as paupers, whether they are confined, and how and in what place and how long, and at what expense is each pauper supported—and that each member of said committee shall furnish to the chairman thereof, such information so obtained; who shall report the facts to the House of Representatives, during the first week of the next session of the Legislature."

We understand that one or more of these circulars have been or will be sent to individuals in every town in the State, for the purpose of obtaining the facts required by our representatives, that they may act more understandingly on the subject of making an appropriation for the erection of an Asylum. It is hoped, that every person, to whom these circulars may be addressed, will feel sufficiently interested to ameliorate the condition of this unfortunate class of our fellow citizens, to furnish the information sought, as to the town in which he resides. The committee have undertaken to collect these facts without any expense to the State and it is presumed every one anxious to have known the situation of our insane, especially those to whom the committee apply, will aid them in the performance of their duty. Last year, only 48 towns were heard from; exceeding by a resolution passed the previous year, making it the duty of selectmen to furnish similar information.

It will be a long, long time before our insane, can come forward to make known their wants, maintain their rights and advocate their claims upon the sympathies and charities of their fellow men; for however possible may have been their recovery in the first paroxysms of their disease, could the proper curative means have been adopted, their treatment is generally *precisely* such as is calculated to increase their malady. Let not then the present attempt prove ineffectual.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

Judging from its manifestations, the feeling in favor of the proposed institution, for the relief of that suffering and distressed portion of our population visited with mental alienation, is rapidly and constantly increasing in different sections of the State. Besides the meeting at Portsmouth on the 5th instant, the proceedings of which appeared in our last, a Convention of delegates from several towns in Cheshire county assembled at Keene, which resolutions were passed approving of the contemplated project, and a circular memorial to the next Legislature was reported, adopted, ordered to be printed and afterwards circulated among the citizens. We are also happy to learn that at a recent adjourned town meeting in Portsmouth, the subject of the Hospital was discussed, a unanimous vote in its favor taken, and their Representatives instructed to use all laudable exertions to procure its immediate establishment. Our correspondent writes that the like result would be had in all the towns in that vicinity. Let the friends of the cause persevere—success must ultimately crown their benevolent efforts.

N. H. Patriot April 25, 1834.

INSANITY.

Very few ten of the good citizens of this State have any just conception of the extent of insanity within its limits. The number of insane is stated in annual statistics, to be 250. We think it all too small should be taken into the account, it would be found much larger. We believe there are in this town alone nearly twenty—many of them old and desperate cases, and others every hour becoming more and more confirmed in the dreadful malady. In all of our neighboring towns we can count about the same proportion and if there is falling off in the other parts of the State, the actual number must be far short of 250! Not a doubt can be entertained that if these unfortunate beings could be placed in an institution, similar to those in other sections of the union, the trials of them could be eased and restored to their afflicted friends. Why then will hesitate to bestow every energy of his mind to the task? Who will dare lift a finger to prevent that noble duty, humanity and justice demand? If there is any in whose bosom still finger doubts, let him examine the subject dispassionately—Let him see what has already been effected and what is still to be done.—Let him go to the madhouse and behold his wretchedness—let him hear

his wild and furious ravings—examine his chains—the miserable board—the wretched pallet—the shivering, freezing wretch, and then reflect that he too may be soon his rival in despair. He will turn away with other and better feelings and smother the benevolence in their attempts to do good.

Portsmouth Gazette.

N. H. Patriot May 2, 1836.

To the Rev. Clergy of New Hampshire.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND FRIENDS.

We take the liberty of calling your attention to the present condition and claims of the Insane in this State. It is estimated that the number of the Insane among us cannot be less than five hundred, nearly half of whom are paupers. Even members of wealthy families, who are visited with this malady, are often exposed to cruel neglect and intense suffering,—chained in out-houses, garrets and cellars—these food thrown to them as to dogs in their lair—their personal comfort wholly ignored for. Of those dependent on the public for their support, some are entrusted to the care of the lowest bidder for the pittance of profit accruing from their board; others confined in narrow, dark, cold cells in the lowest of others and many in our common jails. The most comfortable condition of the *imprisoned* insane is that, in which they share the common lot of felons, and mingle freely in their society. Otherwise they are confined in cells, hardly opened from year to year, never warmed by a breeze or visited by a ray of sunlight,—exposed to all the inclemencies of the climate, and with hardly any furniture except a heap of filthy straw. The cases have not been wanting, in which the limbs of those thus confined have been frozen; and in one instance a derailed female was restored to her friends from one of the jails in this State, with the loss of both her feet, which had become so badly frozen as to render amputation necessary. These unhappy sufferers, it must be remembered, have for the most part been brought to their present condition, not by their own fault, but by hereditary predisposition, diseases of the brain, unavoidable accidents, increasing duties or overwhelming calamities. Many of them deserved well of society, in filling, while they were able, with exemplary diligence and fidelity, important posts of private and public duty. Insanity is now generally admitted by physicians to be a merely bodily disorder and yields as readily as any other disease to skillful medical

treatment and a jollesous regimen. But common physicians see in the whole course of their practice very few cases and cannot have in the treatment of this malady the advantage which in other cases they enjoy, of frequent observation and extensive experience. Moreover, in the most favorable private situations there cannot be that constant oversight, that security from the frequent recurrence of causes of excitement, that combination of congenial and attractive scenery, that minute attention to diet, exercise and recreation, all of which are found to be highly essential items in the management of insane patients. The consequence is that out of the *insane Hospitals* cases of recovery are very rare; and in the great majority of instances, the disorder becomes exasperated to such a degree, that solitary confinement is the only resource left, even to humane and faithful friends. But in the *Hospitals* which have been established for the benefit of the insane in different parts of the country, since *forties* of recent cases and at least one fourth of the chronic cases are cured; and, where the disorder is incurable, the patient is restored to the comforts and enjoyments of civilized and social life. Even, those who have been confined for twenty or thirty years in cages in almshouses and county jails, without clothes or fire, are now at large within the limits of hospital grounds, engaged daily in suitable labor or recreation, neatly clad, taking their food in company, and sufficiently sane to invoke the richest of heaven's blessing upon the humanity which has drawn them from hopeless misery and restored them to peace and joy. A plan has been for several years before our Legislature for the establishment of an asylum for the insane in our own State; but it has been from time to time postponed on the ground that it has not been called for by the people at large. Within a few weeks, large and respectable public meetings have been called in different sections of the State; resolutions have been passed favorable to the object in question; and preparations are making in various quarters to memorialize the legislature in its behalf at their approaching sessions. Believing that the object is pre-eminently one of Christian philanthropy, one which, (were we to leave out of question the grounds of expediency and political obligation,) we might safely rest on the law of Christian brotherhood, on the Saviour's definition of the term *neighbor*, we respectfully invite you to lend your aid in the efforts now in progress for the relief of this unfortunate class of our fellow citizens. We would beg you at some early opportunity to *plead their cause from the pulpit*, to present their claims to your several congregations, and thus, to

far as in you lies, to produce a simultaneous feeling and action in behalf of this object previously to the approaching session of the Legislature.

We remain, brethren,

Yours in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, CHARLES BENNETTS, Rector of St. John's Church. MORRIS HOWE, Pastor of the first Baptist Church, ANDREW P. PEARODY, Pastor of South Church and Society, WM. B. JACOBS, Present officiating Clergyman of Middle St. Baptist Church and Society. SCHUYLEN CHICKERLYN, Minister of Methodist Episcopal Church, Portsmouth. E. E. CROMBIE, Pastor of the Baptist Church, A. D. JONES, at present supplying the pulpit of M. G. THOMAS of the Second Cong. Soc., Concord. JOHN G. ADAMS, Pastor of the Universalist Societies in Concord and Romney. J. G. DOW, Presiding Elder of the N. H. District and Minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Dover. SAMUEL HOYT, Minister of Methodist Episcopal Church, Concord.

The foregoing communication, having been laid before the Hopkinton Association of Ministers, assembled at Canterbury, April 27, 1836, they hereby unanimously express their approbation of the same, and unite in recommending it to their brethren throughout the State.

KREYFZKE PERCE, West Bosworth.

ABRAHAM BURNHAM, Pembroke.

ABRAHAM BOWWELL, Sashport.

WM. PATRICK, Canterbury.

LISA CONANT, Northfield.

ISAAC KRIGHT, New Chester.

SALMON BENNETT, East Bosworth.

HENRY WHITE, London Village.

SAMUEL NICHOLS, Franklin.

MORRIS KIMBALL, Hopkinton.

NATHANIEL BOLTON, Concord.

A. P. TENNY, West Parish Concord.

ISAAC WILEY, Pembroke.

Editors of Newspapers in favor of ameliorating the condition of our insane are requested to insert the above.—Ed.

N. H. Patriot May 2, 1836.

Insane Hospital.

At a meeting of the Union Association, at Bedford, May 10th

1855, it was resolved, that the establishment of an Insane Hospital in New Hampshire, as recently proposed, is a measure fitted to furnish important relief to a multitude of afflicted individuals and families, and worthy in a high degree of the consideration and patronage of the Christian community. (Signed.)

John M. Wilton, Thomas Savage, Archibald Burgess, Nicholas Kingdary, Sam Aiken, Edwin Jernison, David Snow, E. Jones,
Anders Eliasson.

N. H. Patriot, May 26, 1857.

Insane in New Hampshire.

The following extract from a Memorial to the State Hospital, drawn up by the citizens of Portsmouth and designed for presentation to our next Legislature, exhibits the probable number of persons within our limits, afflicted with that worst of all diseases, mental derangement.

By the returns from other States, and some sections of our own State it is ascertained, that one person in a thousand is suffering from that disease, at least in some of its grades. According to this estimate, the number of our insane, in proportion to the population of New Hampshire, would be about 200. Let us take as other estimates. By the Selectmen's returns on the first June, last year, it appears, that there were then eighty-six insane persons in that town; and this number did not embrace the whole list: yet this rate would make the whole number in the State to be 630. The returns to the Legislature, of last last session, from 18 towns, made the number of insane in them, to be 15. This proportion would make the whole number in the State 611. The averaged of these computations would probably give with comparative accuracy the appalling sorrows of us learn from kindred families in our State. This statement perhaps might be enlarged, as it is extremely difficult to obtain correct statistical information on this subject; some worse cases of the malady may be mild, and hardly classed as such, and many, even severe cases may be studiously concealed from public knowledge. Is not this sufficient to strike the humane interposition of the General Court?

N. H. Patriot May 29, 1857.

Hospital for the Insane.

. ON FRIDAY EVENING JAN. 8. B. O'NEILL Esq., of Portsmouth, 18-

livered a very interesting, forcible and eloquent address in the representatives Hall upon the nature and extent of insanity and the best method of treating it, in which he very satisfactorily showed that it was a mere disease of the physical organization, under proper medical and moral treatment as susceptible of cure as any other of the ills to which flesh is heir, and that this necessary curative treatment was beyond the reach of its victims except at a lunatic asylum—hence enforcing, with much ability, the utility, importance and necessity even of the establishment of an institution of that kind in New Hampshire. We have not time or space to give so much as an outline of his remarks which it would afford us great pleasure to do; it must suffice to say, that the discourse conferred much credit upon the speaker, and can scarcely have failed to produce a conviction in the minds of his audience of the correctness, practicability, expediency and economy of the views it so clearly and powerfully sustained.

N. H. Patriot June 13, 1836.

THE INSANE.

We published in our last paper, an address "to the friends of the Insane" signed by a number of gentlemen, residing in different sections of the State, urging the necessity of an Asylum and proposing the manner of obtaining the funds for so important and philanthropic an object.

We hope it will be read by all, especially by those (if there can be such) who are opposed to taking the necessary means for the recovery, or ameliorating the condition of nearly five hundred of our fellow citizens, suffering most of them, all that is possible for human nature to suffer; and also hope that its publication in the papers of this State will induce a general simultaneous inquiry in every town and village, whether some additional provision ought not *immediately* to be made for our now wretched lunatics? Almost every Editor in New Hampshire is in favor of an Asylum, and no doubt will advocate its necessity, and if sufficient interest can be awakened, to occasion the reading of whatever is published in relation to the subject previous to the next session of the Legislature, and also an interchange of thought and sentiment among the people in regard to its expediency in a pecuniary view, and our duty on the score of humanity and justice, we have no fears as to the result. If our Insane cannot burst their bars, and come forward with their mangled hands and haggard looks and supplicate or speak for themselves—unhappily their

rights and advocate their claims upon the sympathies and facilities of their fellow men; yet we have no doubt the people, literally and truly the people, men of all classes, professions and pursuits in life, will at the next session of our Legislature petition (in such manner as cannot be misunderstood) for an appropriation, on condition that ten or twelve thousand dollars be raised by subscription as proposed in the address alluded to.

We have for two or three years past published much upon this subject, and so long as there is the least prospect of success, we shall continue to do so until an Hospital for the Insane is erected, and especially until June session shall we devote weekly some part of our paper to the accomplishment of the object.

No individual writes to has refused his aid and hearty co-operation in favor of the plan proposed—the following are some of the contributions received from gentlemen unable to annex their names to the address as was intended.

Providence, April 14th, 1838.

CHARLES H. PEACOCK, Esq.—

DEAR SIR:—In reply to your letter of the 6th inst., I would say that I have for a long time been in favor of having an Insane Asylum within the borders of the State, and believe it the duty of the Legislature to raise the necessary funds for its accomplishment; still I would cheerfully aid the views of the associated Gentlemen with the little influence I may possess and you are at perfect liberty to make the desired use of my name for that object.

I am, &c. very respectfully. Your obedient servant,

JAMES H. WARR.

Providence, April 23, 1838.

CHARLES H. PEACOCK, Esq.—

DEAR SIR:—Yours of the 10th inst. was received last evening.—From the time, and even before, the first agitation of the subject of an Insane Hospital, I have been very decidedly in its favor and I fully believe that the State ought to build and endow one, even without any contributions of individuals; and it is one of the few subjects on which I have never been troubled with a doubt.

You are at liberty to affix my name to a circular for the object as specified in your letter, and have my ardent wishes for success.

We have had the friends of all "classments," mercantile, agricultural,

tural, and manufacturing, urging the claims of each to public favour and protection, while the poor, debilitated maniac is left to "shift for himself." this ought no longer to be suffered,

Yours, &c. in haste,

EDW. H. MANUKIN.

Claremont, April 14th, 1828.

C. H. PRASLER, Esq.—

DEAR SIR:—Your communication of the 11th is before me. Sir—I have long felt an interest in the cause in which you are engaged, you may be assured of my efforts and united influence in favour of the noble and philanthropic object contemplated. I am willing my name should be used, but any further co-operation must not be expected of me before the meeting of the next Legislature, as I expect to be absent from this State, most of the time until June.

Very respectfully, yours,

J. S. SEABROOK.

Lancaster, April 13th, 1828.

GEORGE KENT, Esq.—

DEAR SIR:—I received a letter, under date of the 7th instant, from Messrs. Haren and Combs of Portsmouth, in which they say "That an association of about 30 gentlemen had been formed for the purpose of aiding in erecting a Hospital for the Insane in this State; and that a circular address upon the subject was soon to be published, to further the objects of the association, with a request that my name might be used along with others. They further requested me to address my answer to you.

As this effort is to be made for the relief of persons the most unfortunate of our race, I cannot withhold my name, humble as it is, if it can in any way advance a cause, having for its object, the alleviation of human suffering.

I am sir,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR BEVERLY.

Dartmouth College, April 14th, 1828.

George Kent, Esq.—

DEAR SIR:—In answer to your inquiries respecting my serving

as a committee organized for the purpose of establishing an Asylum for the Insane, I will say that I shall be happy to lend the association any aid in my power and to do them any service which will not interfere with my duties in College.—If I can do any thing in the vicinity of Hanover by circulating a subscription paper or in any other way that might be thought advisable by the association, I shall be happy to co-operate with them in the furtherance of so laudable an object.

Yours &c.

E. D. SARGENT.

Shelburne April 14th, 1838.

C. H. PRINGLE, Esq.—

DEAR SIR—Your letter of the April 10th relating to a Hospital for the Insane, has been received. The Circular prepared for publication, to which you allude, I have not seen; but presume it will meet with my approbation. I am decidedly in favor of the erection of an Insane Hospital in our State, and you are at liberty to annex my name to a Circular in favor of such an institution.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

OSWALD B. BOWEN.

A letter has also been received from the Hon. Joel Parker, of Keene, saying that the Hon. Leonard Blaine, of Walpole, and Peter Jewell, Esq. of Winchester, had cheerfully promised their co-operation, and desiring that their names be added be added to the circular.

N. H. Patriot April 25, 1838.

THE INSANE ASYLUM.

"Another Voter" appears to clear some things relating to an *Insane Asylum*, in a different light from what I do. If we have not got the right of the matter, do let us get the right of it if we can. The general candor and actuality of the style in which this other Voter has penned his remarks, entitle them to a respectful consideration; and I am not disposed to call in question the rectitude of his motives; but his apparent limited knowledge of the nature of things, and of that required by extensive reading, have led him into some *misstatements* even, as he said of me.—"Another Voter" says the *Intelligent*

and anxious citizens of New Hampshire need no further delay for them to inform themselves.' Who are these intelligent and anxious ones? We might reasonably suppose that the members of the State Legislature would be included in that class, but if they had no doubts on the subject, why did they refer it to their constituents? "Another Voter" says that I stated the number of insane persons returned to be 233, which ought to have been 212; in this he is correct: it was an oversight, yet I do not consider it as an *important* error, as the number I stated was nearly double of that for which the annual expense is calculated in the contemplated asylum. "Another Voter" inserts that the idea I quoted from a medical book, that an asylum sometimes aggravates the malady, is proof that my medical studies began and ended in the single statement I quoted; this remark, if not a quibble nor a quirk, is futile, and foreign from the merits of the cause. This other Voter asks if I will produce the evidence that asylums sometimes aggravate insanity; this he has a right to do. He shall be gratified. In *Bartlett's Synopsis*, a late practical and valuable work on medical and surgical diseases, article or subject *insanity*, he may find the following statements, *namely*: Sometimes maniacal extravagance has a contagious effect, especially on recent insanity. Insane people often seem deeply impressed by horror of confinement with others insane. Will not insanity be aggravated especially in a house devoted to insane people, when the disease is partial?" &c.

"Another Voter" states that the sum of \$9,150 annually, to support the insane, was never intended to be levied as a tax on the people, but to be paid principally by those who receive the benefit of the asylum. If that was the understanding of the committee, it ought to have been explicitly stated in the report. I am no enemy to the motion for building an asylum; I think the project reflects honor on the projectors, but I cannot but also think that this year, fixed upon to lay the subject before the people, happens to be the most unfavorable that has been these twenty years, by reason of the scarcity of bread-stuff. A sudden transition from plenty to want, makes folks *feel* poor, if they are not so. Besides, as our legislature holds two sessions this year, we shall probably have state tax enough to pay next year, without increasing it by an immediate appropriation for erecting an asylum.

THE INSANE HOSPITAL.

Glancing my eye over the Patriot of last week, I notice that 'a voter' endeavors to sustain an assertion formerly boldly advanced by him, (the utter absurdity of which has been shown by 'another voter,') that Insane Hospitals are injurious to the lunatic in some cases, by a quotation from a little student's manual of medical practice, known as *Bartlett's Synopsis*. As the subject of insanity has formed the basis of hundreds of volumes, solely devoted to its investigation, it seemed sufficiently strange that he should attempt to establish a principle of such immense importance to humanity and public economy, by a quotation from a single book, and least of all from such an *omnibus* gathering as this little epitome. Knowing however, that its articles on mental alienation, were prepared by Dr. George Parkman, long known as a most indefatigable advocate for these institutions, for several years the manager of a private one, and one of the prime originators of the McLean Asylum, I was confident that there must be some mistake. On turning to the little volume, (not so very recent as 'a voter' would indicate, having been printed 14 years since,) with equal regret and surprise I found the extract advanced by him so garbled and mutilated, as to make it intimate what its author never could have intended. At best the alleged remark is merely thrown out as an enquiry, and does not bear a single tittle against a doctrine perhaps more *universally agreed to than any other point in the whole theory or practice of medicine* viz. the indispensable necessity of asylums in treating insanity. Here is the sentence:—"Will not insanity be aggravated, especially in a house devoted to insane people, when the disease is partial, &c.," [with this &c. 'a voter' stops; reader, mark the rest.] "when the disease is partial, not connected with the sufferer's habits, domestic affections or particular objects, if he is very susceptible, considerably intelligent, does not dislike his home or friends if his fears and disquiet are not kept up by the objects among which he lives, or by a strong passion, or if he has long lucid intervals?" A case uniting these possible objections to asylum treatment may perhaps be imagined, but in actual practice would rarely be met with; certainly never in a selection of 120 worst cases from over 400! But enough of this;—to contest for the indispensable value of hospital treatment is as superfluous as to demonstrate mathematically that five and five are ten.—It is probably injudicious to even argue a point, never before

denied, but the ignorant or the wrong-headed may think that there is some question or division of sentiment, when in fact there is none. Even the good sense of 'a voter' already sees the absurdity of his former hasty and unreflecting assertion and he now says he is a friend to an asylum, notwithstanding its dreadful effects be so lately apprehended! He now places his opposition on new grounds, viz. short crops. In the name of common humanity, shall it be argued to the independent farmers of our State, that when every article of produce is bringing a price far beyond the depreciation of the harvest, when there never was so general a time of prosperity as has prevailed for years past, when a flood of unanticipated public wealth is about to be poured upon us, that they have an imaginary sensation of "feeling poor." The man who now *feels* too poor to do justice and love mercy never will feel richer even had he the wealth of Croesus. Can a better reason be given for immediate action than that the crops are short? The insane, the pauper, may feel this; if 'hid off' and 'let out' will feel this, in unsatisfied hunger and starvation. And though prices are high their chains are no easier, their collars are no lighter, their garruts are no warmer?

But, says 'a voter,' the Legislature will have two sessions, this will make tax enough. If public sentiment grudges their representative his paltry stipend, hardly equal to his current expense, let it call upon their legislature to adjourn the moment they have convened and decided this question, rather than that the judgments of Heaven should be provoked upon us, as a people, for our deliberate, propense barbarity and neglect of our insane brethren and fellow citizens!

A PHYSICIAN.

N. H. Patriot Nov. 5, 1836.

Remember the Insane.

Every friend of humanity and of equal rights must not forget to vote for the the Insane Asylum on Monday. The State is about to receive a large sum from the National Treasury, the interest of which for a single year will be amply sufficient, to build an asylum and to put it in operation. Not a cent will be required from the pockets of the people for the noble object. And who is there so destitute of humanity—so lost to sympathy—so regardless of human suffering, as to vote against the philanthropic enterprise? Who will not rather record his vote in favor of breaking the shack-

ies, and relieving from their dangers, from filthy cages and filthy walls, more than 200 of his fellow citizens? It cannot, it must not be, that this enterprise is to be voted down, at a time when it can be carried forward without the least inconvenience to anybody. Such a decision would be disgraceful to the character of our State, and a lasting stigma upon our people.

It has been calculated that the expense to each inhabitant of this State, to be incurred by the erection and endowment of a suitable Hospital for the comfortable accommodation, relief, and civilised treatment of that portion of our insane, most likely to become its inmates, will amount to about *five cents*. Shall it not be cheerfully and promptly incurred? Let justice, humanity, a sense of what is due to ourselves and posterity answer?

N. H. Patriot Nov. 5, 1835.

TO THE FAREWELL OF THE DEAF.

The subject of insanity is one of great importance; it should be one of deep and general interest. The condition and sufferings of the insane, when fully realized, must excite the sympathy of every feeling heart. Deprived of God's most precious gift,—the distinguishing attribute of man,—Reason;—visited with a misfortune worse than poverty, and often added to poverty itself;—a terror, a disgrace, and an aversion not unfrequently even to their friends, and yet unable to take care of themselves, they appeal most touchingly to the friends of humanity for protection. By a deep rooted prejudice, which almost believes them possessed of Evil spirits and smitten with a judgment from God, they are in a great measure shut out from the pale of general sympathy. They are denied the rights of human brotherhood. While christian zeal and philanthropy are traversing the world for objects of benevolence, there are hundreds of our fellow beings, even at our own doors, who now suffer unheeded, and without an effort for their relief. While the law throws its shield of protection around the weak, and extends its supporting arm to the unfortunate,—while legal provision is made for the poor and diseased, and the deaf and dumb, and blind, are educated by the public bounty;—the poor insane, though suffering under a misfortune worse than either of these, and more deserving of

gity, is treated like a convicted criminal, and subjected to imprisonment and even stripes! Still more unfortunate, in their case *diemne* instead of being a claim for compassion and kind treatment, becomes an excuse for injustice and injury. With a nervous system shattered and morbidly sensitive, they are perpetually and wantonly excited, instead of being soothed and caressed. Distrusted, feared, and shunned by all, they learn to shun and hate all, and the excitement which might have been checked by timely and judicious treatment, terminates in hopeless madness. They become a tax upon society,—a burden to their friends,—a misery to themselves.

Several years have now passed away since public attention was first called to the condition of the Insane in New Hampshire. By direction of the Legislature, a Circular was issued to the several towns calling for information and official returns were made. From these it is clearly ascertained that there are now within the limits of this State, at least *Three Hundred and Fifty* Insane! Nearly *One Hundred* of these are in confinement! They are supported at an annual expense and loss of more than *Twenty Thousand Dollars*! The situation of many is pitiable almost beyond conception. Often chained and scourged, without crime and without right, as terror or caprice dictates,—shut up in cages, cellars, garrets and outhouses,—they suffer more than criminal rigors. They are deprived of the protection of the law, and placed under the ban of public opinion. When punishment is thus dictated by fear, and inflicted in imaginary self defense;—when conduct is so slightly controlled by self interest, or by public sentiment,—we need not wonder at the perpetration of frequent enormities. We would not impeach the *motives* of the keepers of the Insane,—we would not accuse of *intentional* barbarity,—but nevertheless, with existing fears and prejudices, *cruelty* must and will be practised under the plea of *necessity*. The situation of these poor outcasts demands alleviation, for the facts are indeed startling, and thanks to a kind Providence, justice and mercy, economy and charity, public good and private interest, all point to the same end and the same remedy.

The establishment of *Hospitals* for the Insane in several of our liberal and enlightened sister States, has settled the question of the *curability of insanity*. Their success has indeed been wonderful. *INSANITY IS A DISEASE: IS MUCH SO AS A fever, and no more.* It is a little more dangerous, and may be cured almost as readily by timely attention and proper treatment. In either case, if not treated promptly and skillfully, delirium and death may be

the result. But if so treated within a few months after the first attack of the disease, more than nine out of every ten have been restored to health and sanity. And all this has been, and may be accomplished at a cost but little exceeding the present actual expense of their support!

Experience has shown too that a removal from familiar scenes and faces, and a peculiar moral and medical treatment to be learned only by long and extensive practice, are *essential* to success. Employments and recreations are necessary; liberty which shall not endanger safety, and restraint which shall not aggravate disease. These and other requisites can only be found in a Public Asylum. And how great a blessing to the individual, to families and to the community is such an Institution?—Husbands have been restored to wives and wives to husbands, parents recovered to children, and children to parents, all "clothed, and in their right mind."—Those who have only been a terror, a grief, and a disgrace, have returned to their homes a joy and a blessing.—Those who were a burden and a tax upon the community, have now become active and useful citizens. Instead of being useless consumers of the earnings of others, they are now producers; instead of being supported, they now aid in supporting others. They have been shut out too from religious privileges.—The light of hope and joy never broke in upon their mental darkness. Yet to them, for brightening the gloom of despair, awakening indifference or calming excitement, religious consolations are doubly necessary and effectual. The *voice of religion* can "minister to a mind diseased," when all other voices are powerless. When all these facts are undeniable, does not philanthropy, does not christian duty, does not patriotism, does not even self interest demand the establishment in New Hampshire of an *ASYLUM* for the *INSANE*?

But the question arises, how can this be accomplished? In the present state of things it is scarcely to be expected, even if it were on the whole desirable, that such an Asylum should be founded and wholly supported by the State. Experience proves that those institutions flourish best, where private influence and responsibility are enlisted in their superintendence. Individuals must commence the work, and lay the foundation. Let them unite their zeal, their influence, and their charities in its favor, and such an asylum will be irresistible. When this is done, the great public benefits to be derived, and the public honor involved, will undoubtedly determine the State to grant a liberal appropriation in aid of the enter-

prior. The people will demand its encouragement by all suitable means. When Maine and Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont; when New York and Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Ohio have already erected and endowed Asylums for the Insane; when Rhode Island and New Jersey, and even New Brunswick and the Canadas have been moving in the good work, we cannot, we will not believe that New Hampshire will be behind all her sister States in this contest of benevolence. The sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars will be necessary to complete the work. But before the State will probably grant its aid, individual charity must bring forward its offering. Ten or twelve Thousand Dollars must be raised by private subscription. A small sum from each friend of the cause will easily accomplish it, and place the enterprise on a secure and honorable foundation. Donations to a considerable amount are already offered, and only await the organization of some body to receive and appropriate them. All things are auspicious to the success of the work. The more the subject is discussed, the more favorable is public sentiment. The larger other similar institutions are in operation, the more satisfactory is the result. And as the plans, objects, and prospects of an Asylum in New Hampshire are being unfolded new friends are springing up in every quarter of the State, and with heart and hand their best "God speed" in the cause.

But to effect these objects some organization is necessary, and a concentration of effort. A number of individuals, from various sections, all feeling a deep interest in the welfare of the insane, and in the establishment of an Asylum for their benefit within this State, have formed for this purpose an association.—It is a voluntary one, composed of those whose opinions become known to each other, and is open to all who feel the necessity of action and relief. We wish an increase of strength. Time has not allowed a more general consultation, but accessions will be hailed with pleasure. We are only anxious that the donations offered shall not be lost, and are prepared to sacrifice all minor considerations for the promotion of this object. The members of the Association believe that the present is auspicious for the commencement of this work. They have pledged themselves to each other to use all their exertions and influence for its speedy accomplishment. They offer their gratuitous services to hasten this desirable end. In behalf of this cause they would now ask a contribution from the friends of the Insane—from every humane and liberal man; and they

pledge themselves for the prudent investment of all funds received, and for the faithful discharge of all the duties of the sacred trust. Application will be made at the next session of the Legislature for aid from the State, and we trust that with an enlightened liberality it will be granted. Much however will depend on the success of this appeal to private charity. But even if not granted this year, the fund now raised will be constantly increasing by the accumulation of interest, by legacies, by donations, and by new contributions. It will form a nucleus around which other charities will gather, and will soon swell to an amount sufficient for all the purposes of the undertaking. The foundation will be already laid, and the edifice must and will be built,—*over and over*. Let individual liberality but perform its own part of the work, and the State by its bounty, must and will complete it.

The friends of the Insane must now come forward, and yield their assistance and co-operation. To relieve misery is a solemn duty which the happy and prosperous owe to the unhappy and sad and unfortunate. The man who slurs his heart or his purse against the cry of the miserable, may be called upon to suffer a just retribution in his inglorious misfortunes. The victims of insanity are all around us. They are among our own neighbors, and relatives, and friends. Neither sex, nor age, nor condition may hope to escape. Neither rich nor poor are exempt from the affliction, though upon the former, the latter, and the mechanic it falls most frequently and most heavily. It may even overtake us, and some who aid in founding this Asylum for the benefit of others, may sooner or later experience its blessed ministrations for themselves or their friends. A gentleman of wealth, education, and talents, who once offered a large donation for this very object, has since been smitten with the disease himself, and a recipient of the same privileges he labored to extend to others.

In behalf then of the Insane of New Hampshire,—of nearly rock-mad men of our own fellow citizens now lost to usefulness and to happiness; who have few friends to step forward in their defence;—we appeal to you for protection and relief. They cannot plead their own cause—they cannot make known their own wants and sufferings, but their cry has gone up to Heaven and it will not be in vain. The appeal should touch the heart of every Christian—every philanthropist—every patriot—every man who even regards his own best interests. Listen to their wild despairing wails, or frenzied ravings, and

remember that "blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." The light of reason is dimmed but not quenched; aid in dissipating the cloud that is fast overshadowing them, before it is too late. Restore them to their homes, and to society, happy, intelligent and useful. Give back to the poor lunatic the dearest of blessings, and remove a burden and disgrace from the community. Our sister States already have the vantage ground, and are now reaping the rewards of their liberality. Let us New Hampshire—our own New Hampshire, stand alone, and behind all her sisters in this enterprise of charity. Let us each strive to remove this opprobrium, and pledge our subscriptions, our exertions, and our influence that New Hampshire too shall possess an Asylum for the Insane.

All donations received may be retained in the hand of the collectors, or forwarded to Charles H. Peaslee or George Keat, Concord, or transmitted to Samuel Lord, Esq. Portsmouth, who will act for the present as Treasurer.

Charles H. Peaslee,	}	<i>Concord.</i>
Joseph Low,		
George Keat,		
Charles J. Fox,	}	<i>York.</i>
Daniel Abbot,		
Edmund Parker,		
Joel Parker,	}	<i>Keene.</i>
Amos Twitchell,		
Abiel A. Livermore,		
John H. Steele,	}	<i>Peterborough.</i>
John Conant,		
Alfred W. Haven,		
Isaac Waldron,	}	<i>Portsmouth.</i>
Samuel E. Ames,		
John B. Bodding,		
William Hale,	}	<i>Haverhill.</i>
Moses Paul,		
Hamilton Pyckias,		
James Thors,	}	<i>Derry.</i>
Samuel Collins,		
Josiah Quincy,		
John Sullivan,	}	<i>Rosebury.</i>
William Perry,		
Nathaniel P. Rogers,		
John J. Grichrist,	}	<i>Exeter.</i>
Joel Eastman,		
Stephen C. Lyford,		
Henry A. Bellows,	}	<i>Pyramid.</i>
Nathaniel S. Berry,		
	}	<i>Charlestown.</i>
	}	<i>Canaan.</i>
	}	<i>Meredith.</i>
	}	<i>Littleton.</i>
	}	<i>Bedford.</i>

George Huntington.	Waldpole.
Joshua Darling.	Beverly.
Richard H. Ayer.	Hooksett.
Charles H. Albertson.	Amherst.
John Chadwick.	Middleton.
John Bryant.	Plainfield.
Daniel M. Smith.	Leopold.
Leonard Wilcox.	Oxford.
Bernard W. Jenness.	Stratford.
William Plumer, Jr.,	Epping.

Editors of newspapers are respectfully requested to copy the above.

N. H. Patriot, April 16, 1838.

Clarification. Mr. Prentiss attributes the defeat of the Insane Hospital to an alleged dilatory action on the part of the "Patriot folks." "On all the Democratic votes" says he, "sent out from Concord, the question in relation to the Insane Hospital was stated, and the answer 'yes' printed. This is not true. On all the votes first sent out for Cheshire, the question was not answered at all. But after the federalists had destroyed a great part of those first sent, their place was supplied by some which had been printed at the special request of some of the friends of the Insane, not having any others on hand at the time. So in regard to Cross County. The supply first printed being exhausted, those having the 'yes' at the end of the question were sent there. All the rest, with very few exceptions, were left blank. The voting tickets sent out from this town, all, we are informed, had the 'yes' printed on them. If the 'whigs' of old Cheshire could not withstand this dilatory, it is not our fault. But it is not certain yet, that the Hospital has been voted down. We have stronger hopes it has not been so."

N. H. Patriot May 23, 1838.

THE INSANE.

A meeting of the friends of a Hospital for the Insane in this State will be held at the Unitarian meeting house in this town on Wednesday the 10th inst. at 1-2 past 6 o'clock, P. M. A general attendance of the associates and all others interested is requested.

Concord, June 6, 1838.

INSANITY: WHAT IT IS.

In this, and in succeeding analyses of the Patriot, we propose to treat of the following subjects, viz: 1st. What is insanity? 2d. What are the most suitable means to be adopted for its cure? 3d. What is the condition of the insane in this State? 4th. What course ought the people to take in regard to building a Hospital for the insane?

1st. What is insanity? Is it strictly speaking a disease of the mind? Many regard it as such; and perhaps a large proportion of the community are of the opinion, that the soul, the immaterial part of our nature is subject to disease like the material. It is not strange, that such is the belief with many, who judge of things by their appearance alone; and who seldom take much pains to draw any nice distinctions between cause and effect, when there is any liability of their being confounded. But to the man of deep reflection does it appear reasonable, that the mind, that essence from the invisible One, which is destined to an eternal, uncorruptible existence, is forever liable to become a prey to the languishment of disease?—that it is exposed to the casualties of life, like its frail instrument, which “is cut down, and withers in an hour?” As insanity is often but the symptom of some bodily disease, is there not reason for believing that it always is so? For ourselves we can conceive of no way to account for madness, but by supposing it to spring from the derangement of some bodily organ or organs, which convey impressions to the mind. How can it be otherwise? The mind can receive intelligence of the external world only through the medium of the body; and can receive food for reflection only through the same medium. In a word all its perceptions, and consequently all the materials upon which it exerts its powers, and manifests itself, must be drawn from impressions made through certain organs of the body. Now if any one of these organs be disordered, the impression conveyed to the mind by such organ will be erroneous, and the act of the mind consequent upon such impressions will be wrong. This would constitute derangement; which has been defined, every departure of the mind in its perceptions, judgments, and reasonings, from its natural and habitual order; accompanied with corresponding action.” If the organs, which convey impressions to the mind are all healthy, we believe insanity can have no existence, in so much as the reflective and reasoning powers of the mind must, as we conceive, derive their support from these impressions.

The degrees and shades of insanity are as various as those of any other disease of the body; and its violence will depend upon the extent to which derangement of the bodily organs is carried. One with diseased perception will kneel to a post, as if it were a monarch; and perform all the acts of the most humble suitor for his majesty's favor. Here nothing appears to be wrong, but the first perception; and all the reasonings, all the acts correspond to these erroneous impressions. Another from some deranged impression conceives his neighbor guilty of some crime—or of an attempt at some crime, perhaps violence upon his own person; and his reasonings are correct, in accordance with such impressions; but his conclusions are wrong, because his data were false. This was most unfortunately the case with the neomourae and koinafide, who was recently tried for his life in this county. This unhappy man conceived, that all with whom he associated were leagueed together against his life; and the result of this impression was the taking of the life of an innocent man in imagined self defence. Here the reasonings were just, had the impression been correct; and what was there wrong, but the deranged organs, which conveyed the impression to the mind? Again an individual may believe all the fancies of the imagination to be realities, transform himself into a king or beggar, believe himself great or mean, just as happens. In other cases complete fatuity may take place. Thus it appears, that insanity is endless in the variety of its states; as it also is in the degrees of its violence. Its operation makes its first appearance in as great variety of forms—though it seldom makes its attack suddenly, or vehemently. One will for a time show unusual elevation or depression of spirit—is easily irritated—discovers some eccentricity of character; until at last some particular hallucination fixes upon his mind, as the disease is more fully developed. Another is more cautious, shy, and timid than usual; distrustful of his friends, whom he thinks guilty of plotting his destruction; or he may think himself haunted by evil spirits, when little do his friends, much less himself, imagine that his disturbers are but the "evil spirit" of his dreamy imagination, which may ere long work him into raving insanity; when does madness commence "vehemently," and I may add seldom does it continue in the mild form in which it commences. By some strange sympathy, when one faculty is disordered, others appear to follow in the derangement, until he who at first only excited the wonder, perhaps the mirth of

friends, by his strange deportment, becomes a wild and raving tempest—the unwilling subject of the straight jacket and the chain—the poor tenant of the cold and dreary cell, to be gazed at, and talked about by neighbours, who come to see the “crazy man” in his wildness. We have considered insanity as a disease of bodily organs—and we might add in furtherance of this view the statement of Dr. Rush, who says “there are but two instances on record of the brain’s being found free from morbid appearances in persons dying of insanity,” which we should not expect if it were only a disease of the mind. A disease of the body, but how different from other diseases in which, while the body is racked with pain and weakened by continued suffering, there is always a bright and watchful guide to minister to its wants—while this, where all communications with those around is in effect cut off—where the director of life is struck from his station—all the world without is arrayed in unnatural hues, and the world within is a continued scene of strife and turmoil. Indeed, if there be anything to excite our deepest sympathy—any disease which should call up our noblest efforts for its removal, it should be this, where the man devoid of man’s noblest attributes goes forth in his uncertain wanderings knowing not, what he does. Come, then friend of humanity, go with us to the deranged man’s cell, (it is near your dwelling) and as you look upon his woe, then learn compassion, consider with us the most effectual means for the amelioration of his dreadful state.

“After the history that has been given of the distress, despair, and voluntary death, which are induced by derangement; I should lay down my pen and beset my paper with my tears, did I not know that the science of medicine has furnished a remedy for it, and that hundreds are now alive and happy, who were once afflicted with it.”

When speaking of the seat of insanity, and of its phenomena, we might have mentioned the intensity of suffering, which the human is doomed to experience. It is not true, as some imagine, that the deranged man is in a state of happy release from all “the ill which flesh is heir to.” No. “That burning brow, that quivering frown, that parched tongue; that dry and haggard eye, from which no tear will gush to give relief” for the torpid muscle beats, but cannot weep—that coward shinking from imagined evil, that wild, morbidly shriek, which rises so fearfully at times like the deep laugh of mirth; all, every thing in the deranged man’s appearance betoken a state of exquisite suffering, of which the sane man can form no just conception. Yet he who has been afflicted

but mildly with hypochondriasis, may have some faint idea of what one suffers in a single form of madness. And can one, who has not only seen friends and relatives suffering under alienation of mind, but who himself, like Lear, has had occasion to cry out in his anguish, "I am bound upon a wheel of fire!" can any such person refrain from enquiring with eagerness, *is there no cure?* There is a cure. Medicine has furnished a remedy for "the mind diseased." "Blessed science!" which thus extends its friendly empire, not only over the evils of the bodies, but over those of the mind of the children of men."

In seeking for the most suitable means to be adopted for the cure of insanity, let us be governed by reason enlightened by experience. Empiricism in this, as all diseases, should stand abed, and let knowledge bear sway. Ignorance should retire, and let science reign as master. In a word, they, and they alone, who make it a business to investigate and treat this disease, should as a general thing have care of insane patients. For the mode of rational management to be adopted in the infinite varieties of mania can not be learned by rote. Books cannot teach it; in these generalities only are dealt with; and the thousand minutiae to which one must direct his attention in any hope of success, in the treatment of this disease, can only be learned by long, and diligent attention to individual patients. Now such efforts, such attention is not to be expected in the common practitioner of medicine. His field of practice is in one sense, too limited for this; in another too extended. It is too limited, in as much as he seldom sees a madman in his regular course of business; too extended, as he has to devote too much time to those, who are afflicted with other diseases. And how is it one becomes a successful practitioner in the treatment of any complaint? It is by *experience* coupled with knowledge. He may read a world of books, and yet fail to prescribe judiciously. His eye, and his reason must labor for him, as well as his memory. He must see for himself, and pass judgment upon each case as it occurs. He must discriminate, and study the physiological and moral character of each patient in order to meet with that success, which will satisfy himself and his employer. It is said of a Professor in one of the first medical institutions in our country, that he can tell with great exactness the general symptoms of all the diseases treated of in the books, and the mode of treatment in each disease; and yet if called to the sick bed, is at a loss what to do in the most simple case. He has knowledge and judgment, (for he possesses an intellect of the highest order) but

wants the experience, which would teach him how to apply that knowledge. If this be so in maladies, which afflict the body alone, and in which the mind is left free to tell the weakness and failing of its servant; of how much greater importance is it that one should have extensive experience to crown with success his efforts in setting free the trammelled and imprisoned soul, which cannot speak its wants.

The mode of treatment in insanity, as recommended by those who have made this subject their particular study; and who have long been conversant with lunacy in all its forms, is of two kinds, viz. that which is calculated to operate directly upon the body, and that which operates upon the body, through the medium of the mind. In other words, the treatment is *physical* and *mental*, on the latter of which, it is now generally conceded, the greater dependence for a cure is to be placed.

In regard to the physical treatment of mania, "more," says Dr. Mackintosh, "is to be done by attending to the bowels, to the regimens, and to the temperature of the patient's body, than by less-efficacious remedies, such as bleeding and blistering, exhibiting digitalis, and persevering in the use of drastic purges." If this be true, and we believe the sentiments of this distinguished writer upon this subject will accord with the experience of all those who have been most successful in the treatment of this disease, we see under what disadvantages the common practitioner labors, when called upon to combat this powerful malady. He sees his patient for a half hour to-day, leaves directions for his treatment with the madman's friends, who, to say the best, are ill qualified for the trust with which they are invested. A mistaken tenderness on the one hand, and a more mistaken severity on the other, prompt them to vary in a slight degree from the strict prescription—and so slight a variation in the regimen, or in the administration of medicine, cannot make much difference! (although the result of the whole treatment may depend on this slight variation) and on the physician's next visit, which may be three days after the first, he finds his suffering patient no better, perhaps worse. Here had the insane man been constantly under the physician's supervision, the result would have been entirely different. Further, the friends of the maniac, who perhaps never saw one mad before, cannot know how to adapt their management to the ever-varying character of the disease; nor can his physician, whose experience on this subject is of necessity very limited. No wonder then, that the medical man is obliged to acknowledge that *not one in ten* in his practice,

(if he should meet with ten during a long life) coming from this malady. All these considerations prompt the inquiry: is there sufficient mode of treatment for insanity thus first produced among us?

The second class of insane, second source, which is considered the most important of the two, should accompany the first. And here every thing calls for the constant supervision of an experienced physician. The utmost discrimination is required in the adaptation of the treatment to the circumstances even changing of each individual case. The physician must know when to be kind, when apparently severe, when to transfer the insane man's nurses, when to contradict. He must gain the confidence of his patients—which he can only do by being honest with them—and then strive to set free his imprisoned will, which has been incarcerated in its own shackles, its servants being turned against, and false to those trust. Hence a word, a look, an act judiciously performed, will break the chain of the lunatic's fancies, and bring back to him proper use of his disordered faculty. A word, a look, an act, may be like music, when intelligently performed, even more than the sounds themselves is sound. A friend's cold look, however—a keeper's barbarous over-re-conviction may be the means of aggravating the disorder, which but are meant to cure. Age-old considerations must be spoken up, to accomplish which the patient must change his residence, his dress, his company—must have some familiar, and which continually cause his erroneous impressions; and go where everything, as much as possible, seems his excited brain. But without entering farther into details as regard to the treatment of insanity, suffice it to say: that experience in the treatment and physician, constant care on our part of him, with familiarity—of husband and wife—of friends, are all important requisites, (which none can to leave the hands of cure, if we could not in our other heads apply them) and these can only be had in those institutions, which are expressly devoted to the treatment of insanity, in other words, in the Insane Hospital. Is it the duty of the people of this State to grant an appropriation for such an institution? Let us, before answering this question, consider the condition and number of the insane within our borders, which we will do in our next communication.

"How dangerous is it, that this man goes loose!
Yet none we can get the string Ave on him!"

Humboldt.

From a Report made to the Legislature of this State during June session 1836, we learn that returns in regard to the insane had been received from 161 towns, 141 of which had lunatics within their borders. The number of towns, including Grants and Locations in the State, is 234, with a population of 265,000. The population of the 161 towns, from which returns had been received was 181,569—about three fourths of the inhabitants of the State.—The number of insane persons in these towns was 312, or 1 to every 604(1 inhabitants; 112 of whom were supported entirely at a public charge. Taking the proportion of the insane to the entire population as given above, we have in the remaining 75,431 inhabitants, from whom no returns have been received, 124 lunatics or 65 in the whole State. This estimate we are persuaded, falls far short of the truth, inasmuch as there are some towns from which it is known all the insane were not returned; so that we shall be safe, we think, in placing the number of these poor unfortunate, who need our sympathy and aid at 1400.

Four hundred and fifty unhappy individuals! deprived of the light which reason would shed upon their path; in a condition, in comparison with which that of the most degraded heathen is truly to be envied; for the heathen has the light of nature—dim though it be—which their creator has given for their guidance, while these are not only cut off from all the civil and social life, but even their souls are shut out in darkness from all correct communication with the word of God. And shall it be said that in reaching forth with eagerness a helping hand to the unhappy and benighted in far-off lands, we stumble blindfolded over the children of woe, who lie in wretchedness at our doors? Oh, should not charity begin at home? Should we not rather minister to the suffering among us, than go in the ends of the earth in search of objects for our benevolence?

Of the occupations of lunatics returned, no account was given; but from statistics furnished by the Worcester Hospital, we are led to believe, that while the disease under consideration attacks all classes indiscriminately, the laboring—producing portion of the community furnish much, very much the greater proportion of its victims. By the report of the Hospital mentioned made in 1836 to the Mass. Legislature, it appears that of 500 inmates, there were 12 farmers—37 common laborers—18 manufacturers—16 seamen—68 mechanics—with only 47 merchants, teachers, professional men and vagrants. By a report of the same institution, made in 1837, it

appears that out of 400 inmates there were 41 merchants and professional men, and 368 farmers, mechanics, &c.—Such are the occupations of maniacs who have been admitted to one of the best Hospitals in our country; and were we in a condition to know, we should not be should find quite as great a proportion of the insane arising in from the producing classes. What a motive is here presented for the Legislature of the Granite State to lend their aid in behalf of the insane! The disease is one to which *they*, as well as others are liable. And will not *they*—the free-hearted—the high-souled—the pride and hope of the land—*they* in whom the country ever looks for strength—will not they come up to the work in a cause like this? The disease is one to which all are liable; for no man has the holy, averting mark of blood upon his forehead and doorposts to stay the hand of the destroying angel in his progress. Indeed all, of all ages and circumstances, may be suddenly struck with madness. We have seen one in the heyday of youth, with the blush of health yet fresh upon his cheek, and his pulse yet beating free and bounding with joyousness and excitement; and while every thing bespoke a heart of happiness, in a moment "a change came over the spirit of his dream"—"the destroyer broke in upon his guest, and left a dark and dreary waste to tell who had been there. Another is manhood's pride, busy, and active, and useful, in the midst of his exertion for good, has had the light within him turned into darkness; while a third in the eve of life, whose morn and midday had been sweetly serene, has seen his sun go down in clouds of despair, and despair. All "from the first born of Pharaoh, that slithered into his throne, even upon the first born of the mild servant, that is behind the mill" may be subject to the attacks of this dreadful malady.

It is an unfeeling task at any time to draw the veil from misery, and show it in its nakedness to the world; yet when duty calls, we should not hesitate even in this business. And can who can justly point the condition of the inmates within our borders? On this subject, if not to others, it may with propriety be said, "truth is stranger than fiction." So strange is it, that they who are not conversant with this subject, would accuse us of gross exaggeration, if we should represent the condition of the insane among us just as it is. Yet, we had almost said, the most fertile imagination would fail to conjure up any thing more dreadful, more heart-ickening than the state of madmen in New Hampshire, and in other States, where no proper provision is made for their treatment. But we will not say their condition is any worse, than

in the present state of things, we should expect. No doubt the best is done for them, which under existing circumstances can be done. But come, ye who are incredulous in regard to the madman's suffering condition, go with us and unbar his dreary cell, would that we could at the same time open the portals of his mind, and let the heavenly light of reason in—but hark! hear that wild and hollow laugh (it is not of joy, but of madness) which rings out so startling from his abode of wretchedness.—There sits the unhappy man, upon his filthy straw, his once beautiful hair hanging tangled and gooson-like down upon his broad pale brow, and around his wan and wasted cheeks, which were once as plump and fair as yours—his eyes, which now are wild and bloodshot, once beamed with intelligence—that book over which he poured at our entrance he has had for weeks, and long, long hours will he gaze intently upon its pages, as though he read there his doom—*his doom!* is he a felon, that he must lie, chained and manacled, in this cold, fireless dungeon, into which the sweet light of heaven never enters, except in scattered, struggling rays? how smooth and polished it is by his continued action upon it—(this is not the only madness that loves to wear a glittering chain)—his dress, it is as good as penitence dare furnish. You see him now; but he was not always thus. He was once our school fellow, and a kind and amiable boy was he—his father's pride and hope. All who knew him loved him, he was so good and obliging, and besides, as he arrived at manhood, his lips were never closed but to instruct and delight. But now from an injury he received when at work for his father, he has become a madman and you see his condition. This is no fancy sketch which we have drawn, but the unvarnished truth. We give another. When travelling a short time since through the town of — we saw, by the dim light of evening, an object lying at length in the horse path. It was a female, who had fallen there in a fit, and who might have been crushed by the stage coach, had not the driver's quick eye detected her in season to check his horses. Her person was so exposed, that we restrained the ladies in the coach from the indefinite sight. The neighbors said she was "crazy," and subject at times, to fits; but as she never injured any one she was suffered to go at large. Poor creature; alas for thee, that there is no friendly asylum for thy resting place. We might go on multiplying instance upon instance like these to show the pitiable state of the insane in this community. There are now within two miles of where we write, *five* individuals afflicted with mania, three of whom are confined in cheerless

cells, away from light and hope, while one other is suffered to wander at large, a danger to himself and to his neighbors. No one can look over the reports made to the Executive on the subject of insanity, and read the accounts there given of the condition of inmates in different parts of the State, without feeling some pain at their condition, and deep regret that nothing is as yet done for their relief. One "has been chained most of the time for ten years"—another was "confined in the poor house until she lost the use of her limbs"—another was confined in jail, killed a boy"—another, "a gentleman perfectly harmless at first, gradually reduced to object misery by harsh treatment"—many others, "confined in cells and cages"—others "in jails, handcuffed"—others "chained in their rooms." And is this the way to effect their cure. Plunge them into darkness to brood over their state—to fast under the severity practised upon them? Oh humanity weep for them. But we forbear. Can it be, that the people of New Hampshire can look upon their suffering fellow citizens—those who were once useful and active, a blessing to the State, and who might be so again if properly treated, and not extend a hand for their relief? We cannot believe that they who have always been so liberal heretofore, have now forgotten their nature. We cannot believe that we shall be tainted with having benefits as hard as our granite rocks.

In a former communication, when speaking of the cure of insanity, we attempted to show that there was no hope for the inmate, while in the condition in which he is placed in this State; while at the same time, if he was situated in a suitable asylum, there would be the greatest reason to expect relief. This was inferred from the nature of the disease; and we will now refer to statistics furnished by different lunatic asylums to show that experience sanctions the conclusions at which we arrived. At the Friends Asylum, near Philadelphia, of 9 patients who had been affected less than three months 7 recovered; and of 9 over three months and under twelve 5 recovered. At the Bloomingdale Asylum near the city of New York, out of 66 recent cases admitted during the year 1835, 55 were discharged cured, and of others remaining after Jan. 1, the recovery of 22 was considered certain, making of the recent cases, say the governors, 98 per cent. of recoveries. At the retreat at Hartford, Conn., the proportion of recoveries is something over 51 per cent and in recent cases the proportion is 91 per cent. At the Asylum in Worcester, Mass. of 272 patients, received prior to the publication of the Institution's Report in 1833, 154 had been

discharged. Of 49 officers 18 had recovered and of 66 recruits 54 had recovered, being more than 82 in the hundred. We learn from these statements, not only that insanity can be cured, but that if treated in due season, about 90 per cent. of those afflicted with it recover, as in any other disease whatever—while if left to run on year after year scarcely 20 per cent. recover. Hence a louder call for the people of this State, if they wish the recovery of the insane among them, to be up and doing now, for the longer the delay the less the hope of him at present afflicted.

Let some may suspect, that when recoveries are reported, the individuals afflicted had received but slight attacks, we will quote a few cases from Dr. Lee's Report to the Trustees of the McLean Asylum, made in 1855; to show such suspicions to be groundless. One "was brought here in a state of chronic madness, regardless of personal cleanliness, noisy, and excited. He improved, became calm, quiet, engaged in labor and amusements, and was getting well; in this state he was removed and recovered six weeks after his removal." Another, was apparently idiotic, paid no regard to personal cleanliness, wore her clothes and bedding was noisy, &c. At the end of six months, she was so far improved as to ride out with our best class of patients, and was doing well. In this state she was removed on a visit; at the end of a fortnight she was returned much worse than ever, more filthy and troublesome, tore and ate her clothes and blankets; and indeed would swallow every thing she could get into her mouth. After another six months attendance, we have the satisfaction to believe she is again recovering, and, if not removed will soon be well." Another, "was brought here in a catatonic state. She appeared idiotic, was inattentive to cleanliness, and indeed was in every respect as helpless as an infant. She was put under a course of treatment and began to improve, but was still filthy in her habits, and of course made a great deal of very unpleasant labor. A nurse, on one of the other stories, who had charge of the worse class of patients, and who had been quite successful in correcting their bad habits, expressed the wish that I would let her have this patient in her story; which was granted. Her habits were soon corrected, and from being a very troublesome, she became a very comfortable patient. She was so much improved in three months from her entrance into the Hospital as to be able to attend the family washes and parties, and engage in various kinds of light labor."

In the Hospital then, and there alone, where experienced kindness affiliates as minister, is the lunatic to look for relief; and con-

admitting the number of madmen within our borders, is it not our duty to provide them with a Hospital? *Responsibility* as well as *policy* answers yes. And shall New Hampshire stand back, while hundreds of her citizens are crying aloud for relief from the worst of maladies; and that too, when she has the proof before her of the usefulness of the institutions for insane in accomplishing the ends for which they were designed? Still it be said, that the land of the Starks and Millers—of the great and free—the land which justly prides itself upon the patriotism and intelligence of its sons is wanting in that quality alone which will give greatness to her renown—in humanity? Is it indeed true, that New Hampshire is behind her sister States in this generous quality; when she stands prominent in all other commanding traits? No. The petition she has made for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind, places a contradiction upon any such suspicion. It must be want of information on this subject which has heretofore existed, and now comes, the poor lunatic to languish unrelieved in his drearied abode. It must have been from want of knowledge in regard to insanity and the treatment of the insane in Hospitals created for their benefit, which prompted a Representative to our Legislature to rise in his place, and propose that the unfortunate ones, from whom God has taken reason, be lodged with criminals in our State Prison! And may we not hope that as this subject is more thought of, more will be done for the unhappy maniac? It would indeed be a strange phenomenon, in this age of enlightened and enlarged benevolence, for an object of suffering worth to present himself as an humble suitor for charity at the feet of a liberal community, and be spurned away with contempt, or turned from with cold, heartless indifference to his wants. We can not believe it in the nature of men, much less of Christian men, to look upon distress in any shape without feeling; or without extending a hand to give relief; especially when it is known that the object soliciting aid is in all respects worthy of sympathy in regard. Witness the efforts which are made among us nearly—yes, daily—for the enlightening of heathens in foreign lands; count up the hundreds of dollars weekly contributed in their behalf, and tell us if humanity has fled to British hearts;—and men have lost all feeling. Yet it is a melancholy truth, that here are all our doors near for wretchedfortunates, in a worse condition than any heathen, crying hourly for relief (and they might be relieved) and where is the minister of Christ that lifts his voice, even in prayer, in their behalf, where the christian that contributes one cent for

their aid. Tell not the story of our negligence—shall not we say *insipidity*—to the follower of Mahomet or Juggernaut. Witness the sums expended for the purpose of breaking the shackles which slavery has riveted upon her victims—look at the mighty efforts made—and tell us if men have lost all feeling for others now. And yet the hundreds of insane among us are at present in a state of bondage infinitely more dreadful than that of the most degraded slave, which Africa can claim as a child; and where is the philanthropist that is ready to do his might to set those captives free? Shall it forever be said of us, that we have our eyes and hearts open to the wants of strangers, but have no eyes to see, no hearts to feel for the sufferings of our neighbors and friends? If so, let us not complain, if we are termed pseudo philanthropists; for it is too mild a term to apply to us.

We may in a future number show that economy as well as humanity should prompt us to the erection of an Insane Hospital in as much as the expense to the State from lunatics, when a Hospital is provided for them is less than when they are in want of such an institution.

LANGDON.

N. H. Patriot June 4, 1838.

BELIEF FOR THE INSANE.

The subject of Insanity and its remedies has now been fairly laid before this community. The public have given it their attention and we believe are prepared for action. If any doubt remained, it must have been removed from the minds of those who had the pleasure of hearing the address of George Wallis Haven, Esq. on Tuesday evening. The address was worthy the subject, and listened to with deep interest by a crowded audience.

We believe too that the proper preliminary measures have been taken to command success. Nearly fifty gentlemen, from every part of the State, have associated for the promotion of the object. They offer their services to the public, and each in his own vicinity will exert himself to disseminate information, collect the subscriptions, and do all in his power that an asylum be provided for the suffering Lunatic.—The character of these gentlemen and their zeal in this benevolent enterprise, prove that the disgrace of being without a provision for these outcasts, will be taken away from our State.

We understand that these gentlemen with such others as may associate with them, will meet at Concord early in June. They

will then obtain an act of incorporation and organize under its charter, and apply to the State for an appropriation to aid in the object. We have no doubt they will select such a board of directors and other officers as will guarantee the faithful application of all funds to the sacred object.

It has been suggested that it might be well to suspend the subscription until the board of Directors was chosen under the act of incorporation. We fear this would cause the delay of another year. We need the subscription to show to the Legislature that the people are awake on this subject—that their charity is not confined to mere words and petitions, but that they themselves are deeply interested for the inmate. This will enforce the argument for a grant; and with the grant and the subscription, we can open the door of the cell, strike off the manacles and the chains and set the captive free. To save one year of misery to them is worth a sacrifice,—for one year may consign many to hopeless irrecoverable insanity.—Let then, those who do not wish now to put their subscription, manifest what they will do, when the proper organization is made. We wish to show to the legislature that the inmates poor are not without friends, who will never desert them or abandon their cause.

We appeal then to the public and earnestly request our fellow citizens, one and all, to step forward, each according to his own ability, and the work is done.

We might forbear, to extend the hand of charity if there were any doubt lingering of the extremity of suffering in our very midst; we might forbear, if we knew not that our sister States had removed this dreadful plague spot from their territory; we might forbear if God had thrown a shield over our own households—and leave the wretches to their fate, selfish and base as might be the motive; but, knowing the "secrets of the prison house," knowing our own liability, knowing that means of relief are in our own hands, *what shall be our apology if these things remain.* Forget them, forget the suffering inmates! we cannot. And in after times, when our thoughts may be recalled to the subject, when there comes over the mind the scenes which have been described to us; and conscience whispers, *this suffering continues by our neglect! What will be our shame!* Wait not then to be solicited, but voluntarily throw in your offering,—be it little or much, you have performed your duty, and given your aid and countenance to a most benevolent enterprise. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Porter, Journal.

N. H. Patriot, May 7, 1848.

THE INSANE.

Since the publication of the circular of the friends of the insane, almost every paper in N. H. has advocated the establishment of an Asylum. Whoever has attentively read the publications alluded to, must be convinced, that our pecuniary interest, no less than justice and mercy, call upon us to erect a Hospital for their medical treatment and moral cure. But suppose the expense were a trifle more—there is not, there cannot be manifested on affecting a spectacle on earth as a manacled lunatic—and who is willing to see one of his fellow men placed in one scale and balanced with a cent in the other. Benevolence never suggested, charity never spared her hands to a nobler object than would be the reformation of the institution proposed.

Liberality on this subject would indeed be a charity, doubly, yes, trebly blessed—it would bless not only the individual with the richest of Heaven's blessing by restoring him to his reason, to the enjoyments of social life, but his connections by enabling them to welcome again to their embrace a husband, a wife, a child, a father and friend; and in addition, society at large, by giving back to it, some of its most valuable, efficient and virtuous members.

There are more than *Four Hundred* lunatics in New Hampshire, Ninety out of a hundred might have been cured, had they been sent to an asylum within three months after their first attack; but their present treatment is such from the want of an institution of this kind, as to render, generally, their cure hopeless. Instead of adopting the measures suitable for their recovery, precisely those are taken generally, which have a direct effect to inflame and irritate the disease. The unfortunate and guiltless individual with us, is either immured in chains and handcuffs in our county jails, there perhaps tortured with the sport and ridicule of the shameless criminal, or he would fain put reason to rights, by keeping him in trembling subjection at the poor house or work shop, committed to custody of persons, who feel no interest in his recovery, or what is but little better, though less repugnant to our feelings, he is confined to places where he has been accustomed to feel perplexity of thought, to cruel and associations that revive the disease, and to an, account of their inexperience, the cure of unskillful physicians. No fact was ever better established by experience, by the united testimony of all medical men, than that the first and most important step towards recovery of the insane,

It separates him from all customary associations, from the objects exposed to his senses during the approach of the disease for with these, are connected his false notions and harassing impressions. His relations, those who were once dearest to him, become first stale and uninteresting, afterwards, sources of angry irritation. Numerous instances might be adduced of the disease being revived, (where the patient was apparently recovered) while receiving the congratulations of his friends. The madness of Dr. Zimmerman, which had been suspended for three months while travelling, returned on the day he entered his own house. But whither can the insane in our State, flee from the presence of objects which excite his distress and increase his madness? Where shall he go from the sight of persons that first excited his disease or were first connected with it? We have no place of refuge for him to be received and treated as a being capable of feeling and as worthy of relief. There is a place, however, to which he may go, and where many are now, and remain till death shall relieve from his misery; and in that place, he may see no kind look, hear no soothing voice and have no medicine administered save bars, bolts and manacles. Our statute provides, that if he should be held to answer for any offence and be acquitted by reason of insanity (consequently *and he is innocent as the sleeping infant*) "*he may be committed to prison there to be detained till he, or she be restored to his or her right mind or otherwise delivered by due course of law.*" "And every person so committed shall be kept at his or her own expense, if he or she have estate sufficient for that purpose; otherwise at the charge of the county in which such person is committed."—What a noble, humane, generous, and glorious privilege! How worthy an enlightened, civilized and christian community; What a powerful argument might be drawn from it, in favor of the benign influence of our holy religion, by our missionaries to the heathen! How readily would the Turks (who have no jail for the imprisonment of debtors, and who cannot look upon ours without horror) yield to us the palm for philanthropy, in every crime that abhors and dignifies none; if they knew that we *redeemed*, *kindly* as benevolent our guiltless fellow men for life: when nine tenths of them with less expense might have been recovered and the remainder now made wretched and miserable as wretched and miserable can be by such treatment, might be comparatively happy had we an asylum with no little or less expense! One of the insane inmates of the Worcester asylum, who had been confined in jail, when asked

whether he preferred his present situation to his former, replied, "Oh that was hell, but this is Heaven."

N. H. Patriot, May 21, 1838.

INSANE IN CHESHIRE.

Returns from 14 of the 22 towns in Cheshire county, show the number of insane within their limits to be *forty*. In 1830, the population of these 14 towns was 18,488, and taking them as a specimen of the whole State, the population of which was 269,633 the aggregate number of lunatics in New Hampshire exceeds *seven hundred and sixty one!* Imagine to yourself, reader, the vast amount of unmitigated, unassuaged suffering annually endured by such a mass of your fellow beings, bereft of reason, and excluded from all the enjoyments of civilized and social life.

N. H. Patriot, May 21, 1838.

THE CAUSE OF THE INSANE.

We are informed that the subscription paper for an Insane Hospital, which has been circulated two or three days in this town, is already filled up to the amount of four thousand dollars and upwards, and that it is confidently expected that five thousand or more will be raised here with very little exertion.

The cause is receiving firm friends every where in the country; the papers exhibit a fine spirit on the subject indeed there has been no subject before the people, excepting political questions, which has been so fully embraced as the contemplated relief to the insane. In this section the matter is well understood, so much so that non-paper efforts have become unnecessary. Every benevolent heart is alive to the occasion, and all that is required is, *action* on the part of its immediate friends.

Portsmouth Gazette.

N. H. Patriot May 21, 1838.

MEETING FOR THE INSANE.

In pursuance to a previous notice, a meeting of the friends of the insane, was held at the Unitarian meeting house in Concord at half past six o'clock on the evening of Wednesday the 13th inst.

The meeting was called to order by Charles H. Peabody, Esq. of Concord, and proceeded to the choice of John H. Steele, Esq. of Peterborough for Chairman, and John L. Hayes, Esq. of Portsmouth for Secretary.

After prayer by Rev. Mr. Thomas of Concord, the following resolutions were submitted by Mr. Peabody with appropriate remarks.

Resolved, That the large and increasing number, and awful condition of the inmates within this State, demand that something be done for their relief, and that the experience of all humane hospitals, both in our own land and in Europe, proving that insanity is as curable as other acute diseases of equal severity, until to them is the most efficient mode of relief.

Resolved, That justice to the poor lunatic, and an enlightened regard to our own interests are equally urgent in favor of such an institution, and that it is the duty of every patriot and Christian, to aid the enterprise by his exertion and influence.

Resolved, That in our opinion the State should grant an appropriation in aid of individual exertion, and that we will use and all use our best efforts to secure the complete and immediate attainment of this object.

These resolutions were warmly supported by gentlemen and eloquent addresses from Rev. Mr. Boston of Concord, Rev. Mr. Dwight of Boston, Rev. Mr. Livermore of Keene, Charles J. Fox of Nashua, Hon. Joel Parker of Keene, George W. Haven, Esq. of Portsmouth and Rev. Mr. Ungood of Nashua.

The resolutions were then read and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Bantam introduced to the meeting, the following resolution, adopted by the pastoral convention of the Congregational and Presbyterian ministers of New Hampshire, at Concord, June 21st, 1838, 112:

Resolved, That we feel a deep sympathy with that portion of our fellow-creatures, amounting in N. H. probably to 500 or 600, who are deprived of reason, and who, in many cases are subjected to every hardship which poverty, neglect, and severity can impose upon them; and that we would, as the Saviour of the world did, use our influence to restore them to their reason.

Resolved, That we rejoice greatly in the success of hospitals for the insane in other States: from the reports of which it appears that of recent cases of insanity eighty-six per cent., and of all

cases about 54 1-2 per cent. have been restored.

Resolved, That we cordially approve of the incipient measures that have been taken to call the attention of the community to this important subject in this State.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the ministers in our connection to preach or otherwise address their people on the subject, to communicate facts which may tend to awaken a general interest and to consummate an object so devoutly to be sought as the establishment of a hospital for the insane of N. H.

Adopted unanimously.

Voted, That the foregoing resolutions be communicated by the Scribe, to the public meeting, to be held in Concord, on the subject of a hospital for the insane next week.

A true copy,

N. BOUTON, Scribe.

Concord, June, 1838.

Upon motion of Mr. Pease, the meeting adjourned until the next Thursday evening, to hear a lecture upon insanity and the benefits of hospitals, by Rev. Mr. Dwight of Boston.

JOHN H. STEELE, Chairman.

JOHN L. HAYES, Secretary.

N. H. Patriot June 18, 1838.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The first meeting of said Corporation will be held at the Grecian Hall in Concord, on Tuesday the 14th of August next, at 3 o'clock P. M., to accept the charter—to choose a committee to prepare a code of by-laws—to appoint individuals to solicit subscriptions, and to transact such other business as may be deemed important to be *unanimously* attended to.

SAMUEL E. COOKS, }
CHARLES H. FRASER, }
JOEL PARKER, }
Concord, July 13, 1838!

Authorized by the
charter, to call the
first meeting.

N. H. The election of Trustees will not be made, until \$15,000 shall have been subscribed; that any one may have an opportunity of becoming a member of the corporation, according to the terms of the charter, previous to said election.

N. H. Patriot July 23, 1838.

ARTICLE FOR THE ISSANE.

We have received the proceedings of the first meeting of the trustees of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane, and regret that they came to land at too late an hour for insertion this week. They shall appear in our next. The meeting was numerously attended, and the best spirit prevailed. All were full of confidence, and entered their determination to persevere in their efforts until the final accomplishment of the great and glorious work in which they are engaged. A letter from John Conant, Esq. of Jeffery tendered his subscription of \$500, and Messrs Abiel Rolfe and Timothy Chandler, of Concord, and William S. Marten, of Hopkinton, were enrolled as members of the corporation, having complied with the provisions of the charter, by contributing each \$50 to its funds. A committee to obtain subscriptions was appointed, and papers will soon be extensively circulated. It is expected the building for the institution will be erected next year.

N. H. Patriot August 29, 1838.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The first meeting was held at Greene Hall in Concord, N. H. August 19, 1838, at 5 o'clock, p. m.

On motion of CHARLES H. PRASLEE, Esq.

RICHARD H. AYER was chosen Chairman of the meeting and Samuel E. Cusum Secretary pro tempore.

The notice for the meeting, as published in all the papers of Concord, was then read.

The act of incorporation was then read to the meeting.

Whereupon

Voted, That it be accepted.

Voted, That a Committee of five be appointed to draft bye-laws for the regulation and government of the Asylum and for the management of the affairs of the corporation, to report at an adjourned meeting, and that the committee prepare a seal for the corporation.

Voted, That

DANIEL M. DUFFELL of Dover,

JOHN H. STURGE of Peterborough,

CHARLES J. FOX of Nashua,

JOSEF PARKER of Keene,

CHARLES H. PRASLEE of Concord, be the committee.

Voted, That

SAMUEL E. COOK of Rockingham Co.,

FRANKLIN FINE of Merrimack Co.,

ALFRED W. HAYEN of Rockingham Co.,

WILLIAM HALE of Stratford Co.,

DANIEL ARMOTT of Hillsborough Co.,

AMOS S. TWITWELL of Cheshire Co.,

JOHN J. GILCHERT of Sullivan Co.,

JOSIAH QUINCY of Grafton Co.,

JOHN H. WHITE of Coos Co., be the committee.

Voted, That the Committee appointed to superintend the subscription, be authorized and requested to receive and hold all money and property of the corporation until the appointment of a Treasurer.

Voted, That in the opinion of this meeting, if there should be subscribed over fifteen thousand dollars, the surplus should form a fund, the interest of which should be used under the direction of the Trustees for the reduction of the expenses of such patients as are destitute of sufficient means for their support at the proposed Asylum.

Voted, That the Committee appointed to superintend the subscription, be authorized to appoint an agent or agents in all the towns in the State; or also to employ a general agent, if they deem expedient.

Voted, That SAMUEL E. COOK and WILLIAM HALE be requested to prepare the subscription paper, so that the papers used through the State may be in the same effect.

Voted, That when this meeting adjourns, it adjourns to meet in this town on the first Wednesday in October next, at Green Hall, at 7 o'clock in the evening.

Voted, That the Secretary be requested to notify the adjourned meeting by an advertisement in one of the papers printed in this State, with the request that all the other papers should copy the notice.

A letter was read from John Conant, Esq. of Jaffrey, stating that he was prevented from attending the meeting by ill health, and tendering his subscription of five hundred dollars. The suggestions therein made relating to the subscription through the State were referred to the committee on the subscriptions.

Messrs. ABEL BOLFE, and TIMOTHY CHAMBERLAIN of Concord, and WILLIAM S. MORTON of Hopkinton, were enrolled as members of the corporation, having complied with the provisions of the act of

Incorporation, by contributing fifty dollars each to the funds of the corporation.

Voted, That this meeting now adjourn.

RICHARD H. AYER, Chairman.

S. E. CONES, Secretary pro tempore.

New Hampshire Patriot and State Gazette.

August 27, 1838.

N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

At a meeting of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, held by adjournment at Concord on the third of October 1838—

S. E. Cones, in behalf of the Committee appointed to prepare a subscription paper for general circulation through the State, reported that the committee had attended to their duty and had forwarded the papers to the Committee for each county so that each town could be supplied; but that sufficient time had not elapsed to receive the returns.

G. Wallis Haven, who, as agent of the Committee on Subscriptions, had visited many of the large towns of the State, reported that the subject was exciting the proper attention; and that he had no doubt by the continued exertions of the friends of the cause, the necessary amount would be obtained; but that more time was required for the circulation of the subscription papers in many towns.

Voted, That the choice of officers be deferred until the next meeting of the Corporation, in order to give to each subscriber to the amount of fifty dollars, the privilege of voting thereon.

D. M. Durvell, in behalf of the Committee appointed to prepare by-laws for the government and regulation of the Corporation, reported a code of by-laws which was read and discussed.

Voted, That G. Wallis Haven, Charles J. Fox and Franklin Pierce, be a Committee to prepare a circular letter to the Clergy of the State and that they address the public through the newspapers.

Voted, That this meeting now adjourn to meet at Grecian Hall in Concord on the second Wednesday in January next, at 6 o'clock in the afternoon.

The following is a summary of the By-Laws as adopted, subject of course to such amendments as future meetings of the Corporation may make.

Art. 1st.—entitles each member to one vote, to be given person-

lly or by proxy, duly authorized in writing.

Art. 31—establishes the second Wednesday in January in every year as the annual meeting for the choice of officers.

Art. 32—prescribes the manner of dividing the Trustees by lot into classes, so that three each year shall vacate their seats at the board, according to the provisions of the Charter.

Art. 33—provides the notice to be given for the annual and special meetings of the Corporation.

Art. 34—relates to the organization of the board of Trustees by the choice of their President, &c.

Art. 35 authorizes the calling of special meetings.

Art. 7th & 8th—refer to the appointment of a Secretary and Treasurer, and prescribe their duties.

Art. 36—empowers the Board of Trustees to take charge and watch over the general interests of the Institution; and place under their control the immediate management of the property and concerns of the Asylum,—subject to such directions as they may receive from time to time from the Corporation.

A copy of the By-laws will be furnished to the members of the Corporation previous to the annual meeting, so that any desirable alterations or amendments may be made.

S. E. CURTIS, *Sec. pro. tem.*

New Hampshire Patriot, October 22, 1838.

TO THE FRIENDS OF THE INSANE.

At the last session of our Legislature an act was passed granting an appropriation of fifteen thousand dollars to aid in the erection of a Hospital for the Insane within this State, to be paid whenever individuals shall have subscribed an equal sum. An effort is now being made throughout this State to raise this sum, and secure the appropriation.—A large proportion of it has already been contributed, and the appeal is now made in behalf of the poor. In sum, so each of you now to come forward, and assist in this benevolent object as cheerfully as God has given you the means.

It is intended that the Institution shall be as far as possible, a charitable one, and open to all. The money contributed will be expended in erecting buildings, and furnishing suitable accommodations for the inmates, the use of which will be gratuitous. The prices charged to patients will be barely sufficient to defray the expenses of the establishment, and if there should be a surplus of contributions, the interest will be appropriated to lessen

the charges to the poorer patients. These charges will be graduated according to the recommodations and circumstances of each individual, and it is hoped that through the liberality of the public, the contributions may be so much increased as to enable the Trustees to offer the benefits of the asylum gratuitously to a large number of the insane.

The general government of the institution will be vested in twelve Trustees, eight of whom are to be chosen by the members of the Association, and four by the State. Any individual may become a member by the payment of fifty dollars by himself or by others. In this mode every town or society may be represented, and all may have a voice in its direction. In order to guard effectually against even the suspicion of self interest, or the liability of abuse in its management, the charter expressly provides "that no emolument or profit in any shape whatever, shall accrue to the members of the Corporation, or the Trustees," and the power of supervision is given to the Governor and Council, who are required to examine into its management, and report to the Legislature annually. In regard to its location nothing has been determined, but it will probably be submitted to the opinion of the Superintendents of Hospitals in adjoining States—men who are capable and disinterested, and who will duly examine and weigh the comparative advantages of all the locations pointed out.

This is a brief outline of the plan proposed—if not the very best that could be devised, yet the best under the circumstances attainable. It combines in a measure the peculiar benefits both of a public and a private Hospital, by giving the control partly to the State and partly to individuals, while it guards against many of the defects of each system. More than all, it has been tried in practice, and found highly successful. When we know that it is practicable, and that by it much good has and may be done, our real friend to the insane, can still the whispers of conscience, and turn a deaf ear to the appeals of charity, by the poor pretence of objection to the plan. He will give, and thank God that he possesses the means and the opportunity to relieve in any degree, by any means, the misery of his suffering brother.

It is now more than six years since the question of erecting a Hospital for the Insane was first brought before the Legislature of New Hampshire. The experiment was then comparatively untried one, its results doubtful, and its friends few. In the community there was ignorance or enlighten, and indifference to science, and prejudice to overcome. Through the press, by facts

and by arguments its friends labored to spread the truth, and it has prevailed. Meanwhile and elsewhere, Hospital after Hospital was being opened for the Insane. The results of experience convinced the most sceptical. Hundreds have been raised from hopeless suffering, and restored to friends, to society, and to usefulness. He who was lately a burden, a disgrace, and a terror, has become a help and a joy. Already there are five Insane Hospitals in New England, and *fourteen* in the United States, and every year are new ones being added to their number. Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio, already possess them. With an enlightened liberality, and a far-sighted economy, encouraged by their experience, they are now building others, so that even the most destitute may share their benefits. The way is now opened for New Hampshire, and shall she acquire the unenviable reputation of standing alone and last in this contest of charity?

Four hundred of our fellow citizens, it is probable, have become insane since this subject was first agitated in this State. Of this number *one hundred* have committed suicide, and as many more have died or recovered, while the remaining *two hundred* are now living in the midst of us, miserable and hopeless Lunatics, a burden to themselves, their friends, and the State. Had a Hospital then been built *four fifths* of this number might have been saved, as experience has everywhere shown. Does not every one know that so many hopes have been blighted, and so many hearts broken which a small and reasonable expenditure might have prevented? But even now is this sad destruction going on. Month after month is adding new victims, and can we sit still and refuse to give even a pittance, when we know that it will alleviate so much distress, and prevent so much anguish? If we now neglect their cry, another six years will add an equal number to the long list of wretched madmen. The appeal comes home to the conscience of every individual. Does any one feel that he is not in danger? None are exempt. — The rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned, the man of leisure and of labor, are alike exposed to its attacks. Upon the poor and hard working it falls most frequently and with most withering power. — But if spared the suffering we should be grateful for the mercy, and manifest our gratitude by lightening the sufferings of our less fortunate neighbor. If not we may well fear the infliction is a judgement for our hardness of heart. Does your neighbor neglect his duty? so much greater then is the need that you should do your duty. — Can you give but

little? A little from every individual;—twenty-five cents from every voter or one-fourth of each man's State Tax;—will suffice to build a Hospital. Already more than one-half of the sum required is subscribed. A little effort will ensure success. If you have ever pitted the poor lunatic—if you have ever wished to relieve his misery—now is the opportunity offered for its accomplishment. If now slighted it may never return. And if the project should fail, or even if the burden of its unsuccessful prosecution should be thrown upon a few through your indifference, will the reflection be a pleasing one, that hundreds are pining, "sick and in prison," whom you might have relieved, yet whom you "have not visited?" But if you now listen to their appeal, and give them aid, in after years, when hundreds through your timely charity shall have been restored to home and happiness, and joy shall revisit many a lonely dwelling, and prayers and blessings shall push forth from many a heart for these kind benefactors, it will be a source of grateful recollection that you were permitted to share in so blessed a work. For the sake of the insane, for your own happiness, for the interest of the community, for the credit of our State, let not this last appeal be in vain.

CHAS. J. FOX,	}	Committee
GEO. W. HAYES,		of the
FRANKLIN PRICKS,		Association.

Nashua, Oct. 25, 1838.

Editors throughout the State are respectfully requested to copy.

N. H. Patriot, Nov. 19, 1838.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

We have been informed, by Mr. Hildreth of Derry, that already the citizens of that town had subscribed about eight hundred dollars, toward the accomplishment of this noble work and that more would be obtained.

This is a liberality worthy of the undertaking, worthy of their high minded and illustrious ancestry and worthy of the humane spirit of the age in which we live. If all the towns contributed, according to their population, in proportion to Derry; then more than one hundred thousand dollars would be voluntarily given by the citizens of this State to this noblest of all charities.

Should any more than the amount required by the act be subscribed, it will doubtless be kept by the Corporation as a fund for the support of the indigent insane. Let no one then hold back,

because he imagines that sufficient has already been obtained; enough will not have been done, until every poor and wandering lunatic in the State shall have found in the Asylum a resting place from the mockery of an unfeeling world, and where every proper curative means can be adopted to relieve him from his wretched and agonizing condition.

N. H. Patriot, Dec. 17, 1838.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

We have been informed, that nearly Four Thousand Dollars will be subscribed in the County of Hillsborough (previous to the meeting of the Corporation on the 10th of January next) for this benevolent purpose. In Nashua the amount secured, will be about \$1200—in Amherst more than \$500—in Peterborough about \$400—in New Ipswich nearly \$300—in Hancock \$200—and in Derry about \$150.—This is an example worthy of imitation for the County of Merrimack and those north of us.

We have made inquiries during Court, from the citizens of most of the towns in this county, and also in Grafton; and from what we have heard, fear that those who have received the subscription papers in some of the towns, have not acted with the energy and zeal necessary to obtain what might be got and is expected.

Individuals have told us, that they would have subscribed, but had not been applied to. Every thing that can be done, ought to be, previous to the meeting on the second Wednesday in January, and the subscription papers, returned that they may be seen at that meeting. We hope those who have the subscription papers will no longer delay attending to the trust confided in them, if there has been any neglect heretofore.

N. H. Patriot, Dec. 24, 1838.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

It will be seen by the advertisement in our columns, that the meeting for the choice of Trustees will be held at the Grecian Hall in this town, on the second Wednesday, it being the ninth day of January. It is expected that all the subscription papers will be returned at this meeting, in order that the amount subscribed, can be accurately ascertained; and it is hoped that as many of the members of the corporation as can conveniently, will be present.

N. H. Patriot Dec. 31, 1838.

From Gov. Dinwiddie's message, June 7, 1853.

In former communications to the Legislature I have recommended to their notice the condition and sufferings of the Insane. Their claims have been fully exhibited in the several reports made under the direction of the General Court, and the expediency of adopting measures for their relief has been ably and feelingly advocated in the course of the Legislative proceedings on the subject. Although your predecessors did not feel prepared to sanction the measures recommended, I have never lost the hope of seeing, at an early period, a zealous co-operation of the several branches of the Government with the friends of suffering humanity in promoting a charity so plainly recommended, by the principles of our religion, and by every consideration of justice and philanthropy. While the most liberal provision is made for the victims of their own illness and vice, with an inconsistency not easily accounted for, we abandon those who are afflicted with a calamity, of all others demanding sympathy and solace, to a state of unalleviated wretchedness and almost hopeless incurability. From a somewhat attentive examination of the history of experiments undertaken elsewhere for the security of and recovery of the Insane, I have no doubt remaining, that policy as well as humanity require of us something in behalf of that unfortunate class. Our resources are fortunately ample for accomplishing this object; but should there be an unwillingness to appropriate the State funds to the extent required, there can be no doubt that a liberal and christian community would cheerfully supply the deficiency. Nothing could be more truly honorable to our State character, or give stronger proof, that we are willing to assist in the triumphs of modern civilization.

N. H. Patriot June 10, 1853.

FINISHED ASSEMBLY FOR LEGISLATION.

MR. FARNUM:—The attention of our Legislature, at two past sessions, having been directed to the establishment of an Insane Hospital, for the reception and relief of a portion of the community possessing the highest claims upon the sympathy and assistance of all; and entertaining no doubt that the expediency of founding such an institution, will be again freely discussed and warmly pressed the ensuing June, I beg permission, through the medium of your paper, to offer the public such thoughts on the subject, as at pre-

ent suggest themselves. They will, perhaps, seem crude, imperfect, and superficial; for all which deficiencies, I would apologise by the fact, that constant employment leaves me little time for meditation and reflection. I long waited in expectation that some person with the necessary leisure, and better qualified by talent and education, would come forward in favor of a design so important to the interests of an unfortunate and numerous class, that some Howard would generously volunteer his benevolent services in defence of suffering humanity; but, as none appears, an imperious sense of duty compels me, however reluctantly, to assume the pen.

In order to judge correctly of the practicability and efficacy of a proposed remedy for any evil, whether moral, mental, or physical, it is essential first to obtain correct notions of its nature, location, extent and operations. Thus to determine the utility, propriety or impropriety of endowing from the funds of the State a hospital devoted exclusively to supplying the wants, and alleviating the woes of the unfortunate insane, it is particularly necessary to form and entertain clear and right views of insanity; for, we contend, that very much of the continuance of the evil proposed to be abated by such an establishment, has arisen from ignorance or misunderstanding of its cause, origin, qualities and manifestations. Insanity has been generally reckoned a disease of the immaterial, sentient principle alone—a mental sickness not unfrequently produced by super-natural agency, witchcraft, sorcery, or direct diabolical influence, or else the consequence of secret, unknown, but enormously wicked crimes, and inflicted by Heaven, as a just reward of such awful offences. Hence, it has too often been considered by the great mass of the uneducated and thoughtless, (always the creatures of prejudice and deciding rather from impulse and habit than the dictates of reason and sound sense,) to be incurable—absolutely beyond the reach of the physician's skill! And, if these conceptions of the disorder were well founded, they undoubtedly arrived at a right conclusion. For, what effect could the material prescriptions of the man of mere medical science be supposed to induce upon the subtle, evanescent and incomprehensible essence called *soul* or *mind*? Or if the miserable maniac were receiving the righteous awards of divine wrath and vengeance, what presumption, what impertinence, could venture to withstand the power, and oppose the will of offended omnipotence? What could human effort avail in so unequal a contest? There can be but one answer. Hence the wretched lunatic has too frequently been

consigned to darkness and seclusion, as if undeserving compassion; incarcerated within the walls of a desolate and gloomy prison house; shut out from communication with his fellow-men—from all intercourse with society, as though his presence were contamination; almost wholly deprived of the means of sustenance and warmth absolutely indispensable to the support of animal existence; as if it were a duty to superadd to all his other calamities, the grinding pains of starvation, and biting, freezing cold. In such a situation, the sooner death approached to terminate his sufferings, the greater joy to relatives and friends. Numerous examples of this kind might be adduced, hardly paralleled in the annals of European cruelty, the bare recital of which would make the most insupportable shudder.

This whole business, however, is beginning to be better understood. Philosophy is giving tone to public sentiment.—The indefatigable labors and patient research of Gall, Spurzheim, Combe, and others, have done much towards disengaging the baneful dogma, that the mind is subject to disease. I call the doctrine *baneful*, because in the whole circle of physical and metaphysical investigation, nothing has ever been broached, so well calculated to support the revolting and degrading idea of annihilation, as the notion of the mind's liability to sickness. For if it be subject to one or several kinds of disease, there can be no good reason why not all, and consequently to decay and death, thus at once putting to flight the glorious truth of man's immortality! Thanks to the progress of knowledge and science, it is presumed few but the most ignorant continue to indulge a belief so destructive.

It is now established beyond cavil or reasonable dispute, and almost with the certainty of demonstration, that the cerebral mass, contained in the cavity of the cranium or skull, is the great and sole organ of the intellect; and that the different portions of the brain are separate and distinct organs of the several mental faculties and mental dispositions. It follows that whatever disturbs the regular and accustomed functions of any one of these portions, must be productive of a corresponding irregularity in that power or faculty, of which it serves as the instrument. Hence, we clearly perceive the cause, why such bodily diseases, as act on the nerves and blood vessels, thereby exciting and inflaming the brain, almost invariably begit temporary alienation. Hence, too, the reason of that species of madness (commonly) attendant upon excessive indulgence in the use of intoxicating drink. The brain is stimulated, slight inflammation ensues, and some regions become preternaturally active.

while others lose their energy. We might bring forward other instances in illustration, but treatises on the subject, are so easily accessible we only remark, that sometimes insanity is produced in this way by excitement—pressure of the blood, and inflammation, often the brain is injured by *external violence*, as falls, blows, and such like; sometimes, apparently, its disease originates and is confined within itself, until by sympathy other parts of the frame partake of the malady; but in all cases it is believed there exists some *real organic affection* of its parts prior to, and productive of insanity.

The brain then being a collection of mental organs, and each individual portion the exclusive organ of some distinct individual faculty, we are fully authorized to regard insanity as a disordered state of the intellectual and moral manifestations, consequent upon a diseased condition of the cerebral organs, and susceptible of correction, like all other remedies, by removal of the morbid affection, or by counteracting its effects. The mind, immaterial, spiritual, knows not disease or decay—will ever flourish in healthful, *luculent* youth; of course madness must have its seat in some derangement of our physical organization—must, as to its origin and location, be a *physical disease*, and, considered in this point of light, is a proper object for medical treatment. There is no pretence for believing a priori, that it is less capable, (under equally skillful and judicious management, of perfect cure, or at least of radical and important melioration) than any other disorder of the human system. The reports of all lunatic asylums abundantly warrant the assertion, that, in a vast majority of cases, even in almost every one of recent occurrence, it will readily yield to the influence of rightly administered medicine, and kind, careful treatment,—that rapid and thorough recovery will follow the use of proper means. These, from the inexperience of physicians and other circumstances, cannot possibly be received by patients except by a residence in some institution designed for their accommodation.

On these grounds the advocates for an Insane Hospital rest their cause. They rely solely upon well known facts and manifestly correct principles for success. They demand the endowment of a Hospital, on the basis of public, enlarged and liberal practical utility. They show clearly that insanity is a disease of the physical system, and, as such, just as capable, so far as our knowledge and experience extend of being perfectly cured—of being benefitted by medical advice and skill, by assiduous

uninterrupting attendance, by regular diet and proper exercise, as any other. These advantages are now beyond the reach of its victims, in this state. They can be obtained only in a hospital. The question then is, and it is the only one, will our Legislature do something to lessen the amount of human suffering? Will our wise and benevolent legislators lighten the misery, mitigate the distresses, and assuage the griefs of their fellow-citizens, when perfectly in their power to do so?

MEDICUS.

N. H. Patriot, June 9, 1854.

REPORT.

On the expediency of establishing in New Hampshire a HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, made to the House of Representatives, Jan. session 1854.

The Committee, to which was referred so much of the Governor's message as relates to Insane persons in this State—and also a resolution appropriating \$10,000 for the erection of a Hospital for Insane people—ask leave to Report:

In considering the deplorable condition of the Insane in New Hampshire, we can devise no means of affording them effectual, permanent and economical relief, except by the erecting of an Asylum for Insanity. It is believed no one will deny the right, duty and expediency of governments establishing Hospitals for at least some purposes; when we have the experience of not only our sister States, but of all nations, Catholic and Protestant, in their favor. If then it is admitted that they should ever be established, on any emergency, in any state or condition of society, for any class of invalids whatever, it requires, as it seems to us, but a slight consideration of the causes of Insanity—the individuals liable to attacks of the disease—the treatment indispensable necessary to their recovery—the curability of the disease in Asylums where it is subjected to proper medical and moral treatment, and its proportionate incurability elsewhere with ordinary treatment, and, in fact, all the advantages in this and a pecuniary point of view to the State—to be convinced, that there are no institutions, in the establishment of which to a proper extent, the interests of humanity, of governments, and of individuals, are more deeply concerned, than Lunatic Asylums, and that no State should neglect to make provision for them.

As regards the treatment of the Insane, there is no general treat

in which medical practitioners are more unanimous than recommending the separation of the patient from all customary associations, from his family, home and whatever objects he has been habituated to behold. This is the first and most important step towards recovery. His false notion and harassing impressions are connected in his mind with every thing exposed to his senses during the approach of the disease. His relations become at first stale and uninteresting to him, and afterwards sources of irritation. The places where he has long felt perplexity, he never can see without in some measure aggravating his malady. But whither can he flee from these scenes of anxiety, distress and torture? We have no Asylum in this State into which he can be admitted, and treated as capable of feeling and suffering, and as deserving relief.

Insanity is so obscure in its nature, so untoward in its manifestations, that the mass of medical practitioners, considering it a disease that ought to be treated in an Asylum, do not study it with the same attention as others. They generally know little concerning its ten thousand modifications, varieties and forms, or the proper treatment to be adopted in any particular case, but commonly agree in recommending the removal of their patients to Hospitals. As to the number actually cured in those institutions, very indefinite and erroneous opinions have hitherto prevailed. Reports from several show that, although the disease becomes more hopeless in proportion to its continuance, yet in most cases it is as curable as any other disease, either spontaneously or under medical skill and moral discipline. It appears by returns from all the principal Hospitals for Insanity in England, Scotland, France, and the United States that the proportion discharged completely recovered was between *forty* and *fifty per cent.*, or nearly one half of the number admitted, to which might be added the partial cure of many, and a general improvement in the condition of the remainder—this, too, while there had been received persons of every age, rank and situation in life, and laboring under Insanity of every degree of severity and every length of continuance.

In several Asylums the recoveries, in cases of not more than one year's standing, are *seventy per cent.*, while in some of three or four months duration, immediate relief has followed their reception into these institutions. In the York (Eng.) Retreat, out of 47 patients admitted, 40 were restored; and of the remaining 7, three died of other complaints, under which they labored at admission.

There may be instances of hereditary insanity, some where it is occasioned by blows on the head, or where the train of morbid associations has become fixed and habitual, or where physical disease has been a long time deeply rooted in the system, which may be temporarily relieved, yet cannot be permanently cured; but reports of well regulated Hospitals show, that of patients received within three months from their first attack, more than *nearly per cent.* have been restored.

These authorities hardly illustrate the necessity of providing some institution in our own State, where our Insane may receive proper attention during the first stages of their disorder. The nearest to us are in Massachusetts, and accessible only to persons possessed of wealth, or whose friends have the disposition and ability to support them. Frequently admittance is entirely refused to those from other States, from the impossibility of accommodating them; and when they are received, it is only at a price per week (from \$3.50, to \$15.00) far exceeding in amount the sum of which, as we shall presently endeavor to show, they might be supported in a Hospital here. Thus are the Insane among us obliged altogether to forego the advantages of such an institution, or compelled to contribute enormously for the maintenance of those in other States.

Your committee further report that, though there may be some cases where nature herself effects a cure, they have no recollection or knowledge of a solitary instance where a patient was restored to reason during his confinement in prison or the house of correction. To such there gleams no ray of hope, save in death. It is indeed to be wondered at that a human should ever be cured by the treatment adopted in States without Asylums; for, generally, instead of those measures being taken that are calculated to remove, precisely those are adopted that directly tend to irritate and inflame the disease. The unfortunate and guiltless individual is either immured, chained and handcuffed, in their common county jails, there perhaps to be tortured by the sport and ridicule of abandoned criminals—or his reason is attempted to be put to rights by keeping him in trembling subjection at the poor house or work shop, in the custody of persons who have no interest in his recovery, or, what is scarcely better for the disease, though less repugnant to our feelings, he is confined to places where he has been accustomed to a superior complexity of thought, to scenes and associations that but revive his calamity, and confided to the unskillful care of inexperienced phy-

victims. It not infrequently happens with us, that the friends, even of those in afflicted circumstances and who are finally sent to an Asylum, from the length of the journey, ignorance of the advantages to be obtained, or difficulty in ascertaining whether admission can be had, suffer the first few months of the disease to pass unimproved by any effort for its relief: while the great mass of those unfortunately poor are consigned to hopeless neglect. Surely no one will pretend to deny but that it is our own imperious duty, as Legislators, to see that our justices, so far as practicable, are not only so governed as to secure them from injuring themselves and others, but receive proper attention as respects their food, dress, cleanliness and other bodily comforts, and in addition, we should take care to afford them opportunity for a full trial of a proper curative treatment, so as to give them every possible chance of restoration to reason and liberty. It must be acknowledged that, in every State where the almost universal treatment bestowed on them has a directly opposite tendency, there is something wrong—something left undone which ought to have been performed—and that our republican institutions, founded as they are on sympathy, charity and equality, leave there, on this subject at least, failed to produce all usual and legitimate effects.

If then at present the rich experience serious inconvenience and the poor are deprived of all reasonable expectation of recovery, when both classes might be almost certain of speedy and effectual assistance from an Asylum—evidently the interests of the community demand its establishment, unless the expense would be such as to render it impracticable, or such as would overbalance the good to be obtained.

In regard to the expense, your Committee are of the opinion, that, apart from the claims of suffering humanity, the establishment of a Hospital would in the end prove by far the most economical method of supporting the insane in this State. The whole cost of erecting, furnishing and fully preparing a Hospital, suitable for the reception of 120 patients, on the plan of the Worcester Asylum, the last constructed of any within our knowledge, would not, in our opinion, exceed \$25,000. One half of this we recommend to be appropriated by the Legislature; the other half it is believed, might be raised by private subscriptions and donations.

The Hospital at Worcester Mass., consists of a centre building and two wings. The centre building is 76 feet in length, 40 feet in width, and four stories in height. The wings are each 28 feet in front, and 88 in the rear, 30 feet wide, and three stories

high. They are in the *same line*, extending to the right and left from the opposite ends of the centre building. The front of the centre building projects twenty-two feet forward of the front of the wings. The wings, being 36 feet wide, half their width, or 18 feet, joins upon the centre building; the other half falls in its rear. This arrangement connects the centre with the wings, so far as to allow a free communication between them by means of stair-ways and thorough-fares, and, at the same time, so far disconnects them, that the inside ends of the long halls in the wings, (hereafter mentioned) falling in the rear of the centre, open into the external air, and thus, as it regards ventilation, the advantages of separate buildings are secured to the wings.

The cellar extends under the whole edifice. An excavation to the depth of three or four feet was necessary in order to lay the foundation; and, by excavating a little deeper than was indispensable for that purpose, a great amount of room is obtained, and many obvious advantages are secured.

The basement story of the centre building is designed for storeroom, a kitchen, laundry, &c. The front part of the second story, contains four rooms of convenient size, which with the chambers immediately over them and the small sleeping apartments into which the fourth story is divided, are intended for a Superintendent and his family, a steward, and the domestics and laborers necessarily employed in and about so extensive an establishment. As this portion of the Hospital is to be used in the same as any ordinary dwelling house, it is according to the plan, to be finished in a similar manner. The rest of the 1st, 2d, and 3d stories of the centre building is designed for the dining and day-rooms of the inmates.

The wings are, in each story, divided in the centre by a long hall or aisle, 12 feet in width, and extending from end to end. In consequence of the wings falling half their width, as before mentioned, in the rear of the centre building, these halls communicate, at both ends, with the external air and thus the means of a most thorough ventilation are secured. Whoever has visited any public establishment, where the entire end of a wing is met and closed in by the side of the main building, cannot fail to have perceived the noisomeness of the air atmosphere at that place, compared with it at the other end, where free admission has been given to the pure air. On each side of these halls are situated the apartments designed for the inmates. They are 8 feet by 10, and all are provided with a permanent vent secured in the wall. Each apartment has a large window with an upper sash of cast

iron, and a lower sash of wood, both of which are glazed. Immediately without the wooden sash is a false sash of cast iron, corresponding with the wooden one in appearance and dimensions. This is set firmly into the *sides* of the window-frame, a narrow space being left at the bottom for water to pass off and save the frame from decay. When the wooden sash is raised, the false iron one presents a barrier against escape or injury from leaping out through the window. It is said, that a man, however *furiously mad*, or impatient of confinement he may be, will rarely attempt to break through a window until he has first tried unsuccessfully to raise it. If it be so, this simple contrivance will afford effectual security both to property and person, without inflicting upon the patient any injurious restraint. Each of these apartments is provided with two air flues, one for heated, the other for cool air. It is intended to warm the wings by furnaces placed in the cellar. The hot air is to be conducted from the furnaces through flues in the hall walls, and to be discharged through apertures into the halls.

By these means, the air in the halls may be raised throughout to any desirable temperature. Over the door of each apartment, there is a small aperture, through which the heated air in the halls will pass into the rooms and thence will be carried off into the attic by means of the hot air flue of the room. The aperture of this flue is at the bottom of the room, and is to be kept open only in winter. The aperture of the other flue is at the top of the room and is to be kept open in the summer, so that, as the air is made light by heat, it will rise and pass off through this channel, and the cool air from without will rush in to supply its place. All these flues open into the attic, which is ventilated by skylights in the roof, and large fan-windows at the ends. At the end of the wings, where they join on and are connected with the rear part of the centre building, the halls open into the dining and day rooms, before mentioned, in the centre building. These rooms are fitted up with the same means of strength and security as are provided for the apartments in the wings, and, being directly connected with the halls, are to be warmed from them. The dining rooms, occupying the rest of the 1st, 2d., and 3d stories of the centre building, are of course situated immediately over a portion of the kitchen. Adjoining these rooms a perpendicular space is left open from the kitchen to the third story, through which, by means of an apparatus to a windlass, and called a dumb waiter, the food can be raised from the kitchen and distributed to one hundred and twenty persons in six different divisions without inconvenience.

Each story in the wings is provided with a bathing room, washing room, &c. The large windows at each end of the hall, are protected by an open frame work of iron. Each hall has a separate stair-way, leading into an outer yard, so that each story in each wing is as entirely disconnected from all the others, as if it were a separate building. This allows that separation and classification of the patients, on which all treatises upon the means of restoring the insane, so strenuously insist.

The roof of the Hospital is covered with slate. Besides the security, which this material furnishes against fire, any other covering it was believed, would seem incongruous with the public character of the building, its solidity, and expected durability.

To prevent unsightly moisture from being deposited upon the inside walls of the edifice, an interval or open space is left between the external and internal courses of bricks—the courses being strongly fastened together by ties—so that a free circulation of air through all the exterior walls, from the underpinning to the able, will effectually obviate that almost universal inconvenience of brick buildings.

The commissioners to erect the Hospital at Worcester, state in their report, that the preparation of the grounds; the excavation and steepling of the cellar; the construction of a road by which an easy access is gained to the elevated site of the building, requiring the removal of about 2000 cubic feet of gravel; raising the exterior wall of the edifice, which is 228 feet in length, with partition walls of brick, carried up from the foundation, and dividing it into more than 150 apartments; the roof of slate; the very expensive windows; with all the carpenters labor, and materials so far as the same have been necessary in the progress of the work; have been accomplished at an expense of something less than \$24,000.

Your Committee, aided by persons acquainted with building, have made an estimate of the expense of erecting and furnishing an Asylum in this State, on the plan of that at Worcester, with the following result. The calculation is made for walls of brick, 20 inches thick in the lower story, diminishing 2 inches in each ascending story, and cellar wall of stone 2 feet thick.

Expense of excavating and sinking cellar under the whole building, including underpinning stone and door steps, \$2,000
 Brick work, 1000 m. at \$8, 80,000
 Timber, 100 m. at 2
 Boards, 100 m. at 5 85 1,000

Shingles,	100 m. at 85	300
Doors and Windows,		1,100
Nails, door hinges, and trimmings,		250
Plastering,	500 yds.	600
Carpenters and joiners work,		2,500
Furnaces,		1,000
200 Cast Iron Casements, at 88		1,920
Painting,		350

\$12,800

The above estimate may not be correct in every particular, but mechanics, who have seen the Asylum at Worcester, say such an one may be built in this State for \$20,000 or less, with the exception of slating the roof.

The furniture in each room, consisting of hair mattress bed, bedstead with board bottom, bedding, &c. will cost \$9.00, which, for 120 rooms, will make

\$1,080,

Add building,

12,800

And the whole expense of erecting and furnishing is \$20,940.

Allowing, then, the whole expense of erecting and furnishing the establishment to be \$25,000, there would remain \$4,060, to be expended in adorning the grounds, providing the necessary out buildings, fencing out separate yards and other purposes.

There should be about 20 acres of land attached to the institution, to furnish agricultural and horticultural employments for such patients as are able to labor. This doubtless would be given by the town in which the Hospital was located, in addition to other individual subscriptions.

As regards the expense of supporting 120 patients at the Hospital, it is believed it would not much exceed \$75 each per annum exclusive of clothing, and our conclusion is thus arrived at:

Salary of Physician and Superintendent,	\$1,000
Wages of 6 male attendants,	200
Wages of 5 female attendants,	450
Do. of Steward and Matron, laborers, cooks, and other domestics,	1,000
Provisions, groceries and medicines,	3,000
Fuel and Lights,	800

Making the whole

\$9,150

or \$76.25 to each of 120 patients.

From official information communicated to this House in 1832,

the number of insane persons, in 141 towns heard from, was 129; 116 of whom were paupers. The expense of supporting all of whom, as appears from information as to the expenses of more than two-thirds the number, would be, if the proportion held, \$14,557, or more than \$7,700 per year each. A large proportion, *seventy-six*, were reported to be in close confinement; and to such, with their present treatment, there can be no reasonable hope of recovery. For them is left only existence, capacity of enduring pain and suffering all it is possible for human beings to suffer. "They are visited with a heavier doom than that inflicted upon the voluntary transgressors of the laws. They are condemned, as no criminal ever has suffered." Such as are paupers, too, must remain a burden for life on their respective counties and towns—a burden frequently increased by their families being deprived of their natural supporters. We could mention an instance in Massachusetts of an individual, who had been chained 15 years, until she had entirely lost the use of her limbs, but, being conveyed to the Asylum in Worcester, she completely recovered in less than nine months. There is a case in New Hampshire of a person, who has been confined in jail 59 years by reason of insanity, and probably at an annual expense to the county of not less than \$100.00; and many similar instances have and will hereafter occur. Could such, in the early stages of the disease, be restored to society and usefulness, the saving in a pecuniary sense would be immense, to say nothing of the mental anguish avoided.

But your Committee cannot overlook the great alleviation of suffering by means of an Asylum, even where the maniac might not be fully restored to his former elevation as a rational and accountable being. Formerly, to be sure, the very name of an Asylum, such were the strictness and severity of discipline therein adopted, served to suggest revolting ideas of gloomy prisons, dark and narrow cells, fetters, chains and all the terrors and horrors of Bedlam. But since the subject has become better understood, both medical and mental philosophy have united in exploding the former terrific system, and in demonstrating the value and efficacy of enlightened medical practical practice in many cases, and of the moral treatment of mildness, free exercise, regular diet and separation from the exciting objects of derangement in *vol.* It has been clearly shown that even when medicine is useless and entire recovery hopeless, bodily health, comfort and happiness may, in a considerable measure be secured, and that the appropriate means, for the attainment of the blessings are constant kindness, conver-

sation, amusement and the use of no more restraint than is absolutely necessary for the proper government of the patients. And this treatment can so where be so well attained, or at so little expense, as at an Asylum.

The augmented number of Asylums established within the last 24 years, dragging the wretched victims of disease from the miserable shades of prisons, work-houses and poor houses, and restoring them to their reason, to their friends and society, clearly prove the necessity and value of such establishments, and that our pecuniary interests, no less than justice and mercy, call upon us to provide the necessary means for their medical treatment and moral care. It cannot be doubted, that with appropriate treatment, two-thirds of the lunatics whose support must now continue to be a burden upon the State while they live, might have been restored, and these two-thirds might have added as much to the resources of the State, as the other third would have subtracted from it.

Should an Asylum be established, the richer patients might be required to contribute to the support of the poorer, by proportioning the price of board to the circumstances of the patient, the only object being to obtain the necessary funds to carry it on.—This additional expense, beyond the average price, would be readily incurred by the more wealthy, from its being the cheapest means of support that could be by them procured even then, from the superior recuperative system adopted at the infirmary, and from the difficulty of obtaining a person in any degree qualified for the task of taking care of a madman, especially from among his relatives, his servants and those he has been accustomed to command. If however, the charge for lunatic paupers were in full proportion to the whole sum necessary to defray the expenses of the institution, we have no doubt of its being by far the most economical course to the State that could be adopted, on account of the facility and certainty of cure in these cases, which by the present treatment are protracted and finally rendered hopeless.

If, then, insanity is not synonymous with unparalleled guilt, unnumbered crimes and monstrous villainies, why should so large a number of our fellow-citizens be cut off from all hope, be doomed to all the mysterious and indescribable horrors of madness, when with less expense they might be restored to reason and to their friends.

But suppose the expense were a trifle more, shall we disregard every principle of social obligation, will we persist in a system the operation of which is to sink every victim of insanity deeper and

deeper in the dungeon of misery and despair?

Is this practical effect of our constitution and laws in which we say triumph the purest principles of Legislation that ever adorned civilized society, and shall we continue to boast of our proud pre-eminence among the nations of the earth, and talk of christianizing, civilizing and humanizing others? Are the afflicted and distressed in New Hampshire less entitled to sympathy and relief, less dear to their friends, than those of other States, and are we alone to persist in driving our insane beyond the limits of hope, beyond the reach of recovery? Are we to be haunted with having feelings frigid as our winters climate, hard as our granite rocks, with being willing to see one of our fellow-men placed in our scale and balanced with a cent is the other? Liberty bestowed to relieve the Insane would be a charity doubly, yes, trebly blessed—it would bless not only the individual with the richest of Heaven's blessings, by restoring him to his reason and the enjoyments of social life, by saving him from a lingering death, and from anguish the most agonizing, but his connections, by enabling them to welcome to their embrace a parent or child, husband, or wife, and society at large, by giving back to her some of her most virtuous, talented and efficient members. The credit of christianity, no less than the honor of our republican institutions, the general interests of the State and the claims of our Insane, *imperiously demand* that New Hampshire should be no longer in arrear, while our sister States comprehend within their views the poorest pauper who may suffer under mental disease and have provided Asylums for their recovery; and while even European governments, established for the benefit of the few to the oppression of the many, extend their care and management to all persons, of whatever rank or condition, suffering under this most melancholy of human afflictions. Your committee have felt confirmed in the views they have taken, by the able and ingenious lecture recently delivered by Dr. Perry of Exeter in the Representatives Hall on this subject, and are unanimous in recommending an appropriation for this purpose, as consistent with the clearest prescriptions of duty, justice, humanity and policy. All of which, with the accompanying resolution, is respectfully submitted.

C. H. PEASLEE, for the Committee.

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened, that the sum of twelve thousand five hundred dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated for the purpose of erecting a Hospital for the Insane, when an equal sum shall have

been subscribed and secured by corporations and individuals for the same purposes.

N. H. Patriot, May 15, 1835.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

We have published in this weeks paper the report made by the chairman of the Select Committee to the House of Representatives at its last session upon the subject of building a Hospital for the Insane people. The attention of our Legislature has for a number of years past been officially called to this important subject, but as yet no decisive action has been had. The resolution accompanying the report having been postponed to the coming session, and one also having been passed requiring the Selectmen of every town to make out certified lists of the number of insane persons within their towns, containing the names and ages of each person, their pecuniary circumstances, the number of years during which they have been deprived of their reason and the cause to which the same is ascribed, and to transmit the same to the Secretary of State whose duty it is to lay them before the House of Representatives at the approaching session, the next Legislature will be prepared to give an unequivocal expression of their views in regard to the expediency of the proposed Asylum. We hope no selectmen of any town are so indifferent in regard to the treatment and recovery of this truly unfortunate class of our fellow citizens, that they will neglect to furnish the required information. It is needed that our Legislature may act understandingly upon the subject; and the Representatives elect, knowing that they will be called upon to decide so important a question, should feel it incumbent upon them to see that the desired information concerning the Insane in their respective towns is communicated. It should be remembered that those, who ask and speak for the Insane, are acting and speaking for those who, without the least fault on their part, are incapacitated by their disease for protecting and defending themselves. We have no doubt that could half the physical and mental sufferings of this class in our State be portrayed to our Legislature, they would immediately take decisive and vigorous steps in favor of an Asylum, or, at least, of making some additional provision to what we now have for them. But if we are to wait until the monster shall burst from his chains of his noisome cell, and with glaring eyes, dishevelled

able, worn-torn and ragged features, came forward and proclaimed his wrongs, assert his rights, and advocate his claims upon the sympathies and charities of his fellow men, then indeed is his case hopeless. — Far however hopeful it may have been in its inception and first paroxysms, could he have been placed where judicious moral treatment and medical skill would have seconded the efforts of nature for his recovery, he is now, if in confinement at a jail, house of correction or poor house, or even at his own home, treated precisely the way best calculated to drive his mind into remorseless torment, and to remove him farther and farther beyond the reach of recovery.

There have never been more than three or four instances known of restoration to reason in any State during any length of time, when the insane were subjected to similar treatment to that of nearly an hundred with us. It was officially communicated to our Legislature three years ago, that seventy-six deranged persons were known to be in close confinement in New Hampshire, and returns from all the towns were not received and others were numerous. Some of them were reported to be in chains or cages, made for their confinement; some in out buildings, garrets or cellars of private houses; some in county jails, shut up with felons and criminals of every description; some in shambles, in brick wells never warmed by fire or lighted by the rays of the sun. One insane woman, who had wandered from her friends, was reported to have been confined in one of our jails in winter and without fire. From the severity of the cold and her fixed posture, her feet became so much diseased that it was considered necessary to amputate them at the ankle, which was accordingly done and the wounds afterwards restored to her friends in this mutilated condition. Another female was confined in a garret, where, from the lowness of the roof and her consequently constrained position, she grew double, and is now obliged to walk with her hands as well as her feet on the floor. A man was reported to have been confined for years in a cellar, nearly naked, with a bed of wet straw for his couch, and there to have pined away in lonely wretchedness and want, unvisited and unattended. But it is needless to multiply examples so rife with every thing wretched and pitiable. Those who wish for more of them, can find an abundant detail in the Reports of the Prison Discipline Society, for the last six years.

Without attempting to enumerate the many different causes of insanity, or stopping to prove the folly of that superstitious be-

relief by which it was attributed to the influence of evil spirits rather than to moral and physical causes, are deemed it sufficient to say that all the powers of the mind, through their organs of development, are as liable to be afflicted with disease and that too of various kinds, as those of the body; and either the mind or the body may be enfeebled at the same time in the whole of its powers or in a single one. No one can have any personal insurance against insanity. The virtuous and vicious, the idle and industrious, the weak and strong, the rich and poor, the learned and ignorant, are alike liable to be precipitated into the gulf of madness—into that state the very thought of which involuntarily fills us with horror.

All past experience demonstrates that adequate relief can be only obtained in an Institution exclusively devoted to the treatment of this subtle and intricate disorder. If, then, all are liable to its attacks, all are interested in the establishment of an Asylum for the restoration of its unfortunate victims to the enjoyment of reason and the pleasures of social life. At Worcester, Mass., during the past year, of *one hundred and fifteen patients* discharged from the Asylum, *sixty-four were completely cured, and twenty-two* greatly improved—the cures amounting to *fifty-five and three-fourths per cent.* Any one who reflects for a minute, that within that period sixty-four persons, who by a dreadful malady had been cut off from all the enjoyments of life, have been restored to reason, to health, to a power of mental action and enjoyment, will acknowledge at once the wisdom of the benevolent Institution which accomplished such a result; but when we add to this the recollection of the circle of family and friends around each of these unfortunate beings who now are grateful for the return of their relatives to health and happiness, the parent or child that blesses the provision which has made home again the abode of domestic bliss—every one will rank such an Institution among the most valued in the land—and bless the Legislature by whose bounty it was founded.”

We commend the Report of the Committee to the attentive and careful perusal of our readers, and hope the subject may attract the notice of the contributors of the press in every section of the State. Particularly do we trust that Selectmen will not neglect to forward their returns on or before the second Wednesday of June next, agreeably to the Resolution of the last Legislature, alluded to in the commencement of this article. Let their duty, in this respect, be faithfully and universally discharged.

N. H. Patriot, May 18, 1835.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

We are aware, that it is difficult, almost impossible, to excite a deep and general feeling upon any subject, which does not more directly and immediately affect the interests of our active men, than the one at the head of this article. We do not however despair of exciting inquiry, among those whose duty particularly it has been made to attend to the subject and we are in hopes to enlist and stimulate many others to aid in the benevolent attempt to rescue our Insane from their heart rending situation. Surely no man, who is not abandoned by every moral sentiment and every feeling of compassion, can look with indifference upon the distress of the Insane;—and there is no one, who could not lend with encouragement, any plan, which affords the faintest hope of ameliorating the distressed persons condition, and of restoring him to the blessings of a sound mind and the duties and joys of life. We published in our last paper Mr. Peaslee's Report, and made some remarks upon the subject with a view to keep the public mind alive, to draw the attention of our Legislature to a question, which will doubtless be submitted to their decision at the next session, and to occasion a full and general return from the Selectmen, as to the state and condition of the Insane in their respective towns. If this information is faithfully and universally given in every particular required by the last legislature, an important point will be gained, and much will have been done towards the accomplishment of the main object. The facts developed will exhibit such an ancient and cruel scene of bodily suffering and mental agony, as is but little imagined to exist in New Hampshire, and sufficient to call forth tears of blood from the hardest hearts. It will then appear, that many of the good, the great, and virtuous with us, (as in other States having no Asylum) without the least fault on their part, have been most cruelly consigned by chains and druggs, to cold, silt, and madness; and that the very means have been for a long time, and are now, in practical operation among us, directly calculated to fix more firmly their disease and prolong their misery.

It has been often said that "man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn," but one spectacle there is,

"The saddest seen in Time:
A man to dye the glory of his kind;
In reason clear, in understanding large,
In judgment sound, in fancy quick.

In hope abundant, in promise, like a fell,
 Well cultured and refreshed with dew from God;
 To-morrow chained and raving mad and whipped
 By savage hands; sitting on dismal straw,
 And gnashing with his teeth against the chain,
 The iron chain that bound him hand and foot;
 And trying whiles to send his glaring eye
 Beyond the wild circumference of his woe,
 Or humbling more, more miserable still,
 Giving an idiot laugh, that served to show
 The blasted scenery of his face:
 Calling the stars his sceptre, and the moon
 On which he sat, his royal throne.
 Poor, poor, poor man! fallen far below the brute,
 His reason strove in vain to find her way,
 Lost in the stormy desert of his brain:
 And being active still she wrought all
 Fantastic, execrable, monstrous things.

Little do those in health imagine what days, what nights are spent by our inmates in tireless, sailless, shoreless, woe, nor we should long ere this have reckoned among our brightest ornaments a Lunatic Asylum; for there, ninety out of a hundred, of those now suffering all that it is possible for human beings to suffer, would have been recovered. Other afflictions may admit of relief the consolation of religion, the sympathies of friends, and the assuagement of conscience, but to most of our insane there is no alleviation. Is there an individual in our State fearing an attack of the disease? He can calculate upon no kind and skillful hand, to guide him in the storm, but must be thrown heliess upon the surge, while insanity is rolling its fiery torments through his brain, hushing his passions into fury, leaving not a ray of reason to guide, or of consciousness to hush his actions. Would those who are so much engaged in civilizing and christianizing the heathen of foreign climes, or in freeing the slaves of the South, listen to the pining midnight shrieks, to the howlings night and day of our distressed insane, they might engage their sympathies and direct their energies to an object which could be accomplished and which confer benefits invaluable. This indeed would be a charity worthy of the noblest heart, rich in its blessings as heaven, and lasting as eternity.

The impression made upon our feelings by once unexpectedly seeing a inmate at the break of day, before any of the villagers

had arisen, swaying with the most hurried and violent motions backwards and forwards in the deep room, with his head, and arms, and feet bare, can never be effaced. He was a soldier of the last war, and his insanity was occasioned by a concussion of the head received while in actual service. It was freezing cold, and a severe storm was beating violently upon his almost unclothed limbs. As we approached him he looked us not, for however great were his sufferings and anguish of body, still greater was the horror and agony of mind depicted in his pallid and haggard features;—but we thought as we drew near, he might well say—“Rage wind, crack your cheeks, rage, blow, I tax not your cloisters with unkindness, I never fought and bled in your service. I laid not on the cold damp ground, night after night, by the little Chargee river, to protect your rights, to secure your freedoms, to give you the wonderful blessings of civil and social life; why then let fall your horrible pleasure! Here I am your slave, a poor, infirm, weak, despised old man, but yet I call you terrible ministers, that live with my ungrateful State joined your high engendered battles against a head so old and white as this!” On the succeeding 4th of July, when we heard described in all the beauties of thought and elegance of language the inestimable value of our civil and political institutions, extending their care and protection to the unfortunate and distressed of every rank and condition, our unexampled prosperity—the achievements of our united patriots—when joy was lighted up in every countenance and every tongue was telling of the debt of gratitude we owed, not only to the patriot soldier of the revolution, but the patriot soldier of the last war, we seemed to hear a shriek louder than the ear piercing bugle, interrupting the festivity of the day, the shriek and voice of the same restless maniac, breaking out from yonder prison in the mingled accents of distress and despair,—“Once I too freedom enjoyed, was happy as happy could be; but how galling these chains, how degrading this filthy paler of straw!”

It is an erroneous opinion that lunatics are insensible to cold, hunger and to their degradation by confinement with the offensive of the earth. From the high excitement of the system, there is a morbidly increased sensibility to physical and mental suffering. A nobleman in England, being confined with a strict waist coat, was urged to walk in the garden for exercise. “No, sir” he replied “I will not, while in this degraded condition” (glancing at the strict waistcoat.) “But, my Lord, no one will see you there.”

“Ah sir! what a base man you must be, to think it is the being

seen! No, sir, it is my body's degradation: it is my mind that is degraded and suffers." This man while most furiously insane, felt the ignominy to which he was exposed by confinement and constraint. There is not a more affecting spectacle on earth than Lunatics imprisoned in damp dungeons, degraded by heavy chains and exasperated by naked treatment. We cannot in this age of civilization and refinement endure to see even the criminals tongue extirpated, and every one would be shocked to behold even the most guilty pierced with a pointed pole, pinched to death with red hot pincers, hacked to pieces, quartered alive, his heart torn out, dashed in his face and broiled before his eyes: but pains like these are momentary, are a bubble, are nothing in comparison with the prolonged, ever-recurring, unmitigated agonies of the innocent Lunatic. The torments tearing up the most sturdy oaks by the roots and sweeping off with destruction every thing in its way, the ocean lashed into foam and fury of the most violent tempest is mildness and calm, in comparison with the tumult and ravings of the frenzied mind. The parching fever, holding one's hand during the burning flame, to be stretched upon the rack while the quivering flesh should fall from every bone and the joints burst from their sockets, were a bed of down in comparison with the writhings, throes and paroxysms of the Insane.

Conceiving that nine-tenths of such unparalleled misery might be entirely removed by an Asylum, and that all the remaining unfortunate would experience less relief from their sufferings than the Lunatic at Worcester, who, when asked if he preferred his present situation to his former, replied, "Oh! that was hell, but this is heaven," we cannot forbear an endeavor to rouse our fellow citizens to a sense of justice and humanity.

N. H. Patriot, May 25, 1833.

A SHORT DISCOURSE.

MR. EDITOR—It is sometimes said in conference meetings, and the like, that if any of the brethren or friends have any thing to offer there is an opportunity to do it. Now if I may have similar liberty to talk through your columns I will offer a few remarks, although my opinions or suggestions may by some be accounted heterodox.

In the first place, then I say, that I have read in your last paper, with a good deal of interest, the report of the committee in rela-

tion to a hospital for the insane; Justice Peabody talks well; but I am not fully satisfied with the Resolution reported—as to the land—say twenty acres—I think it proper as suggested in the report, that it should be furnished by the town in which the Asylum may be located, and for this the town would probably receive an equivalent from the location within its limits; but as the other expense—twenty-five thousand dollars—I say, let the State go the whole figure. If our Legislature can lawfully make an appropriation for one half of the expense of such an establishment—about which there can be no doubt—they may also do it for the whole; and inasmuch as there is no want of ability on the part of the State, it is hardly consistent with the feelings and spirit of free and independent republicans to go about begging for individual contributions to help defray the expense of getting up an establishment designed to aid the cause of humanity, and intended for the benefit of the whole community. I have no doubt that the Resolution was reported by the Committee in its present shape with the best intentions; yet I hope that reliance may be placed upon the humane, enlightened, and liberal views of our Legislature, and that when the time comes for action, an amendment may be made in accordance with what I have suggested. I am, for one, perfectly willing to pay my proportion of the whole expense, and I think my neighbors are ready and willing to do the same.

HALESTOWN.

N. H. PATRICK, June 1, 1850.

ISSUES DISCUSSIBLE

There appears to be a very general feeling among the members of the Legislature in favor of doing something to ameliorate the condition of the unfortunate Insane; but many express doubts, on account of the expense attending the enterprise. To be sure the expense will be something; but when divided equally among the people, it will be but a trifle for each to pay; and probably in the end would prove a saving—for in a majority of cases the Insane are now supported at expense of the towns, and the people are taxed for their support. The State has already paid more to educate the deaf and dumb at Hartford, where the whole amount is carried out of the State, than would suffice to build a hospital for the Insane—and reverting a new object of expenditure has been

created for educating the blind at Boston, where the amount is also expended out of the State. Now the question arises, is it better to expend two thousand dollars a year, for mere purposes of education, out of the State, or to appropriate some thousands of dollars to be expended in the State, to relieve the intense sufferings of a large number of Insane, and to restore a portion of them to usefulness, to their families and friends? For our own part we should be glad to see the sufferings of the Insane alleviated, and the deaf and dumb and the blind at the same time educated: but if but one object can be accomplished, we believe it would be much better to stop the appropriations for the latter, and erect an Insane Hospital. The comforts and happiness of the deaf and dumb are doubtless increased by being educated—but without education, they partake in many of the enjoyments of life, and they seem in fact as happy as most other people—whilst the Insane, shut up in cages, poor houses and jails, or confined in dungeons and chains—frequently deprived of fire and clothing, are suffering the most excruciating torments. These can all be made comfortable at an Insane Asylum, and many of them may be restored to reason, to happiness and society—and it has been clearly shown that the expense, (if mere dollars and cents are to be taken into account) will be less to the community and to individuals than it now is. We now pay two thousand dollars a year for the deaf and dumb and blind, which in a very few years amounts to a sum equal to what would be required for the erection of an Insane Hospital: and as we before observed, if but one object can be accomplished, we believe the cause of humanity would be much better subserved by stopping the appropriations of money now carried out of the State for the benefit of the deaf and dumb and appropriating a sufficient sum to erect an Asylum for the Insane, which would be expended in the State, and in the benefits of which the people of the State would more generally participate.

N. H. Patriot June 15, 1835.

THE INSANE.

By the report of a select Committee, consisting of two from each County, made to the House on Friday last, it appears, that returns have been received from only 48 towns, concerning the insane. These towns contain a population of about 60,000, and the

number of persons insane reported is 116, of whom 54 are males, and 62 females. The duration of their insanity varies from 2 to 55 years, excepting in one instance, which is of 6 months continuance. The whole number of years all have been insane collectively, is 1507 or more than 15 on an average. More than half are supported as paupers, about one-fifth part by the charity of friends not legally liable for their support. If the insane in our State is in proportion to the towns heard from, according to the population, and the duration of their insanity also in proportion, the whole number of years would be 7058. By the same report, it was abundantly proved from tables of all the principal Hospitals in France, England, and the United States, that in cases of not more than 6 months duration, 90 per cent. recovered; those of not more than a year's standing, 70 per cent. and in cases of every length of continuance, degrees of severity and difficulty of cure, over 40 per cent. If the recoveries in our State would have been the same in proportion, as in the vast number of cases alluded to by the committee, treated at Hospitals, the saving to us by an asylum is a pecuniary point of view, would have been immense, to say nothing of the thousand of years of *wretched anguish* avoided. Let any one go into the calculation, reckoning the cost of supporting them at \$100 per year, and the value of their time at \$75 on an average, and he will be startled at the enormous amount to which it swells. The committee report that, from investigation and the best information they could obtain, the cost of erecting an Asylum suitable for accommodating 120 patients, furnishing the same, erecting the out buildings, fencing out the yards, &c. would not exceed \$25,000, and that the whole expense of supporting the institution if divided among 120 would not exceed \$25 1-3. Taking into consideration, the cases at the numerous Hospitals in foreign countries and our own; and also that the treatment of our insane, without an Asylum and from necessity, be such in most cases, as is directly calculated to prolong and inflame the disease, there can be no doubt as to the expediency in a pecuniary point of view of establishing an Hospital.

N. H. Patriot, June 22, 1835.

From Gen. Disson's Message.

There is a class of sufferers, far more deplorably afflicted than

any of the present: beneficiaries of the State, to alleviate whose wretchedness is an undertaking highly worthy the exercise of Legislative wisdom. I feel that no apology need be made in an age so distinguished for its public and private charities, for calling your attention to a subject which has so much reason and humanity on its side, as a measure for the security and recovery of the lunatic or insane. The Legislature of this State has never yet recognized these unfortunate beings as entitled to any special favor from government. The period, indeed, is not very remote, when the insane were thought to be the victims of an incurable and hopeless malady; and before the establishment of suitable Hospitals and Retreats for their reception, they might justly be considered so. It is well known how delicate and difficult is the task, even under the most advantageous circumstances, of "ministering to a mind diseased." Great tenderness, discretion, temper, unwearied patience, and varied experience in mental affection are, with other qualifications, indispensable to success. When, therefore, the insane are left, as now, to the inefficient means and incompetent skill of relatives or friends, or, still worse, to the negligence and indifference so often exhibited in the treatment of patients of every kind in our poor-houses, or when they are subjected, as is frequently the case, to the privations and solitude of a goal, where attention is limited to the mere personal security of the individual, we need not be surprised that a restoration of the mind to a healthy state should so seldom happen. The results of experiments in other States and other Countries, are, however, so perfectly authenticated, and so highly favorable, that no doubt can now be entertained, that luxury yields as readily to skillful medical treatment and proper regimen, when combined with humane and judicious care and attention, as most of the other diseases incident to mankind. Reports from some of the best conducted Retreats in England and the United States show, that of the patients received within three months after the first attack, the proportion recovered is more than ninety per cent. Of those admitted after three, and within twelve months from the commencement of the disease, the ratio of recovery is as twenty-five to forty-five; and when the disease is of more than two years standing, the average of cures is somewhat less than thirty per cent.—These statements establish the importance of having, in some convenient part of the State, a place where patients of this description can be received, with as little delay as possible after the commencement of the disease, and before improper manage-

ment shall have aggravated its character, and lessened the chances of cure. The slight aberrations of a fine understanding are, without doubt, often exasperated by injudicious treatment, into the worst form of confirmed lunacy. I would not unnecessarily impute blame to any, because the lunatics are not now better managed; yet there may be some reason to fear, that a true disclosure of their condition, would exhibit instances of suffering from intentional unkindness and neglect, that would surprise and shock every friend of humanity. Without, however, insisting upon what is rather suspected, than known to be true, it is enough for our purpose to be ascertained, as we are by the testimony of all accurate observers, that the consequences resulting from misconception of the nature of the disease, and ignorance of the proper mode of treating it, are scarcely less deplorable than the effects of the most criminal misconduct, and that these evils must continue to be experienced so long as the lunatics are abandoned to the care of uneducated or irresponsible individuals.

The want of more suitable places for their reception, has made it frequently necessary, for the public safety, to imprison the insane like criminals in the common county gaols. I am sure it needs no argument to convince you, how entirely unsuitable and unkindred, is this species of confinement. The public may indeed, in this way, be secured from danger, but the protection is generally purchased by the sacrifice of the miserable victim. The moment the doors of the prison are closed upon him all hope of his recovery may be considered as destroyed. Is it just, or merciful, to treat thus those, whom law and reason pronounced incapable of wrong?

The first step to be taken preparatory to the establishment of a State Lunatic Hospital, and what I would beg leave to recommend for your consideration is the institution of an enquiry to be made in such manner as you in your wisdom may think proper, to ascertain with as much exactness as practicable, the whole number within the State, distinguishing paupers from others; the number that have been committed to gaol within a given time by authority of court, or by their friends or others without the order or sanction of judicial proceedings, and the length of their respective terms of confinement; and to ascertain, in like manner, the actual or probable amount of costs of courts and gaolers fees, and expenses of their support and maintenance in cases of commitment. It would also be desirable, to have as minute information with respect to the present condition and treatment of the insane gen-

erally, and the extraordinary charges for taking care of them, as can be obtained without an improper violation of domestic privacy.

Should the inquiry be faithfully made, it is believed that these unfortunate persons would be found to be so numerous, and their sufferings in the aggregate so great, as to persuade every considerate friend of his species that something should be done for their relief. They can look for help only to those, whose official stations give them the means, as they impose the duty, of watching over and promoting the happiness of all.

N. H. Patriot June 11, 1832.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

SEPT. TERM FOR MERIDUCK Co., 1838.

To the Hon. JOEL PARKER, Chief Justice for State of New Hampshire.

The Grand Jury for said County, believing that the publication of your charge delivered them at the present session of said court, would have a tendency to correct public opinion in regard to the mysterious subject of insanity, and subserve the cause of humanity, respectfully request you to furnish the same for that purpose.

Conceded, Sept. 18, 1838.

SAMUEL JONES, Foreman.

JOHN COISMELLE,
JAMES JOHNSON,
THURMAN C. DOW,
JOHN EMBISON,
NICH W. DRAKE,
JONATHAN MILTON,
JONATHAN CHASE,

JOHN SAWYER,
JOHN HERSEY,
HENRY M. MOORE,
NATHANIEL KIRKALL,
JOHN CLARK,
MITCHELL GILMORE, JR.,
JOSEPH FELLOWS,
WATSON DICKINSON.

MOSES NOBBS, JR., Solicitor.

CHARGE.

Oath of the Grand Jury.

- The oath you have just taken requires of you diligently to inquire, and to make a true presentment of all such matters and things as shall be given you in charge.

The form of the oath is of very ancient origin, and was adopted in England when the law did not define with much accuracy the

jurisdiction and power of the grand jury, but when the subject to which their inquiries were to be directed depended in some measure upon the charge of the court.

Those subjects were of various character, relating not only to crimes committed, but to the revenues of the government, and other subjects connected therewith.

As the administration of the law assumed a more definite and distinct form, the duties of grand juries came to be fixed by known laws, and their proper jurisdiction to be confined to the presentment of offenders, still the form of the oath has been preserved, and the customary charge from the court has continued to be delivered to the grand jury at the commencement of each term, notwithstanding the duties of grand juries have long since been made to depend, not so much upon what should be said in the charge, as upon fixed principles of law, by which it is given in charge to all grand juries to inquire and present all offences against the criminal code, properly cognizable by the court, committed within the bounds of their respective counties.

And in consequence of this change, the charge itself has been often varied, and instead of containing a recapitulation of the crimes falling within the cognizance of the grand jury, and forming proper subjects of punishment, it has often been devoted of such importance to call the attention of that body to subjects having a more general reference to the administration of justice, and the welfare and happiness of the community.

Topics of this character may occupy as quite as usefully as mere definitions of crimes, and specification of their several punishments; and there is at the present time a peculiar propriety in asking your attention to the subject of *EVASION*. It is one which has a most intimate connection with administration of jurisprudence in all its departments, whether of common law or equity; one which is constantly presented not only in the civil, but in the criminal jurisdiction, and in all our tribunals, from the magistrate of the most limited authority, to the court of final resort, it is constantly recurring for consideration. The authorities of our town are, from time to time, called on to provide for the support of individuals, who but for aberration of mind would be fully competent to provide for their own wants. The courts of probate possess, and not unfrequently are called upon to exercise, the power of appointing guardians to persons *non compos mentis*. And not the least difficult among the labors of that court, and of this on the issue forced upon appeal, are those occasioned by crim-

veries respecting wills, where it is alleged that the testators were of non-sane memory. The courts of common law are from time to time required to determine respecting contracts, which are alleged to be voidable from want of capacity to contract—and above all to pass upon the guilt or innocence of citizens, who are defended against an accusation for a capital crime on the ground of insanity.

It is surely not astonishing, that in one way or another it so often becomes the subject of examination before the judicial tribunals.

By returns from 85 towns made by order of the legislature in 1852, there were within those towns *one hundred and ninety-three* cases of insanity, from 127 towns no report was received. At a similar ratio for all the towns in the State, the number would be about *five hundred*. Of those returned *sixty-eight* were paupers, and *sixty-five* not so. From the returns about half were or had been in confinement, and probably admissions is that respect gave a less number who had been restrained in this way, than the facts would have warranted. Some were in cages, and cells—some in irons, and chains—and some in jails.

The report of a committee in 1854 shows returns from 161, in 141 of which the whole number of insane returns was *three hundred and twelve*. In 24 of the towns from which returns were received there were no insane. The period in which the insanity had existed, as far as reported was from two weeks to *sixty years*, and gave an average of about thirteen and a half years duration.—Taking the ratio of the population of the towns from which the returns were received, as compared with the population of the State, and the whole number of the insane would be nearly *four hundred and fifty*. There are obvious reasons why this should be below the actual number.

By inquiries recently made it appears that the number of the insane in the county of Cheshire is *five hundred*—nearly two for every one thousand inhabitants; which would give about *five hundred* for the whole State.

It may then safely be assumed that there cannot be much less than that number.

Of the actual condition of this number of people it is of course impossible to speak with precise accuracy; with some there is no doubt that the malady exhibits itself in an inoffensive manner, and in such a way as to require but a moderate degree of care and attention on the part of their friends. Not in relation to others, although but a portion of the truth has been dis-

closed, the confinement of nearly half, according to the returns of 1852—the resort to chains, and cages, and jails, tells a frightful tale of misery and woe endured, not only by individuals thus deprived of reason, but by relations, and friends, and neighbors, to whom, in the providence of God, their custody and care have been committed.

We do not need the particular details. We have only to recur to our own knowledge of the effects of insanity to bring before us the sudden mood—the meditated revenge for fancied injuries—the wild halloo—the attack—the struggle in some instances, alas! the fatal struggle with near kindred—with a wife, a father, or a son.

And on the other hand the reported returns made to the Legislature “confined”—“sometimes confined”—“confined in the poor-house”—“confined in a cage”—“chained”—“confined in jail” assured us beyond the possibility of question, that hardship and suffering, and misery, such as falls not commonly to the lot of mortals, has been endured by those who have, (in many instances without doubt in the existing state of things necessarily,) been subjected to restraints of such a character.

Whether we regard the suffering of the insane, and the burdens imposed upon relations and friends, and upon the public charity; or whether we consider it with reference to its connection with our jurisprudence it is of the highest importance that insanity should be more fully understood, and that suitable measures should be taken for the relief and security of the insane themselves, of their friends and connections, and of the community at large.

Notwithstanding all that has been said and written within a few years past, in relation to this most interesting subject, it is apparent that correct information respecting it is diffused in but a very limited degree among the people of this country.

The public papers, in giving reports of trials, often say “the defence was, as usual, insanity,” or make use of some other expression, indicating a belief that this species of defence is resorted to in desperate cases, for the purpose of aiding in the escape of criminals from justice. Such opinions are propagated in many instances by those whose feelings are too much excited, or whose ignorance respecting the subject is too great to permit them to form a dispassionate and intelligent judgment: and they have a very pernicious tendency, inasmuch as they excite prejudices in the public mind, and the unfortunate individual who is really entitled to the benefit of such a defence is thereby sometimes deprived of a fair and impartial trial. They tend to make the de-

fence of insanity odious—to create an impression against its truth in the outset, and thus to bias the minds of the jury against the prisoner, and to induce them to give little heed to the evidence, in the very cases where the greatest care, and attention, and impartiality are necessary for the development of truth, and the attainment of justice.

We all concur in the doctrine of the law that for acts committed during a period of insanity, and induced by it, the party is not responsible—that where the criminal mind is wandering, when instead of being guided by the reason which God bestowed, the individual is excited and led on by insane fury and impulse; or by the aberrations of a wandering intellect; or a morbid and diseased imagination; or a false and distorted vision, and perception of things; punishment should not follow the act as for an offence committed—that when the faculty of distinguishing between right and wrong is wandering, the individual ought not to be held as a moral and accountable agent. As well—may much better might we, as was formerly done in France, institute prosecutions against the brute creation for offences committed by them, and hang a beast for homicide, than to prosecute and condemn a human being who is deprived of his reason; for in such case, there is no hope of a restoration to a right mind, and a reinstating of a fellow citizen, who has been once lost to the community in the rights and affections of humanity.

But if we imbibe the idea that instances of insanity are very rare—that derangement exists only when it manifests itself by incoherent language, and unrestrained fury—that the defence when it is offered is probably the last resort of an unskilful advocate; who convinced that no real defence can avail, will not hesitate to palm off a pretended derangement to procure the escape of his client from a merited punishment—if in this way we steel our hearts against all sympathy, and our minds against all conviction, it is of little avail that we agree to the abstract proposition that insanity does in fact furnish a sufficient defence against an accusation for a crime.

There are undoubtedly instances in which this kind of defence is attempted from the mere conviction that nothing else can avail—cases in which the advocate forgets the high duty to which he is called, and excites a prejudice against the case of others by attempting to procure the escape of a criminal under this false pretence, but such cases are truly rare, and usually unnecessary.

The reason which the Creator has bestowed upon mankind for their guidance is strong within them, and breaks through the filmy veil under which a counterfeit madness attempts to conceal it.

But if there were difficulties here they would only add an additional proof of the necessity of a more thorough knowledge upon the subject of insanity itself, in order more certainly to ensure the detection of imposters.

It is not within the scope of the present occasion to examine at much length the various forms of insanity, but there are some to which it may be useful to advert at this time, as they are of a character most likely to become the subject of examination in the courts of justice.

There is a mania of the intellectual faculties, "characterized by certain hallucinations, in which the patient is impressed with the reality of facts or events that have never occurred, and acts more or less in accordance with such belief; or having adopted some notion not altogether unfounded carries it to an extravagant or absurd extent."

This may be general or partial.

General intellectual insanity "involving most of the operations of the understanding," presents such manifestations of its presence that there is little or no danger of mistake respecting the existence of the malady. The individual is not obliged to counteract an incredulity, which sets evidence at naught and defies argument. There is no difficulty in such cases in attributing any atrocious act to the influence of the insanity.

It is when this kind of insanity is partial, affecting only a particular idea or train of ideas, that it becomes strange to us, and in that form we are disposed to treat it, not as an alienation of the mind, but as a perverse state of it out of which the individual should be driven by forcible means, and to hold him accountable for his acts, even to the forfeit of life itself, because, having the full control of most of his faculties, it is difficult for us to realize the impossibility of his overcoming the insane idea by an effort of reasoning powers which appear to act with so much soundness upon other subjects.

Persons of this class often manifest great acuteness in concealing their insanity, being sensible that others differ from them, and that it is prejudicial to their interests.

There are two cases of this character related by Lord Erskine, on the trial of Haddfield for shooting at the king, which illustrate this fact in a striking manner.

"I well remember" said Lord Erskine ("indeed I can never forget it") that since the noble and learned Judge has presided in this Court, I examined, for the greater part of a day, in this very place, an unfortunate gentleman who had indicted a most affectionate brother, together with the keeper of a mad house, at Hoxton, for having imprisoned him as a lunatic; whilst, according to the evidence, he was in his perfect senses. I was, unfortunately, not instructed in what his lunacy consisted, although my instructions left me no doubt of the fact; but, not having the clue, he completely foiled me in every attempt to expose his infirmity. You may believe that I left no means unemployed which long experience dictated; but without the smallest effect. The day was wasted, and the prosecutor, by the most affecting history of unmeditated suffering, appeared to the Judge and Jury, and to a humane English audience, as the victim of the most wanton and barbarous oppression; at last, Dr. Sims came into court, who had been prevented, by business, from an earlier attendance; from him I soon learned that the very man whom I had been above an hour examining, and with every possible effort which Counsel are so much in the habit of exerting, believed himself to be the *Lord and Saviour of mankind*; not merely at the time of his confinement, which was alone necessary for my defence; but during the whole time that he had been triumphing over every attempt to surprise him in the concealment of his disease. I then affected to lament the inadequacy of my ignorant examination, when he expressed his forgiveness, and said, with the utmost gravity and emphasis, in the face of the whole Court, "I am the Christ," and so the cause ended. Gentlemen, this is not the only instance of the power of concealing this malady; I could consume the day if I were to enumerate them; but there is one so extremely remarkable that I cannot help stating it."

"A man of the name of Wood," said Lord Mansfield, "had indicted Dr. Moseo for keeping him as a prisoner, (I believe in the same mad house at Hoxton,) when he was sane. He underwent the most severe examination by the defendant's Counsel without exposing his complaint, but Dr. Rative, having come upon the Bench by me, and having desired me to ask him what was become of the Princess whom he had corresponded with in cherry juice, he showed in a moment what he was. He answered; that there was nothing at all in that, because, having been (as every body knew) imprisoned in a high tower, and being debarred the use of ink, he had no other means of correspondence but by writing his letters in

cherry juice, and throwing them into the river which surrounded the tower, where the Princess received them in a boat. There existed, of course, no tower, no imprisonment, no writing in cherry juice, no river, no boat; but the whole the inveterate phantom of a morbid imagination. "I immediately," continued Lord Mansfield, directed Mouno to be acquitted; but this man, Wood, being a merchant in Pilport Lane, and having been carried through the city in his way to the mad house, he indicted Dr. Mouno over again, for the trespass and imprisonment in London, knowing that he had lost his cause in speaking of the Princess of Westminster; "and wark!" said Lord Mansfield, is the extraordinary subtlety and cunning of madmen, that when he was once examined on the trial in London, as he had successfully been before, in order to expose his weakness, all the ingenuity of the Bar, and all the authority of the Court, could not make him say a single syllable upon that topic, which had put an end to the indictment before, although he still had the same indelible impression upon his mind, as he suggested to those who were near him, but conscious that the delusion had weakened his defeat at Westminster, he obstinately persisted in holding it back."

Another remarkable instance of the concealment of insanity is stated by Mr. Haslam, the superintendent of a hospital in England. It may be found in a very valuable treatise upon the medical Jurisprudence of Insanity, recently published by Dr. Ray, of Eastport, in Maine.

After speaking in general terms of the cunning and address exhibited by the insane, Dr. Ray proceeds:

"When desirous of leaving their confinement also, the consummate wit with which they will set suspicion at rest, the foresight with which they make their preparations for escape, and the sagacity with which they choose the time and place of action, would do infinite credit to the conceptions of the most intelligent mind. Mr. Haslam has related a case so strikingly illustrative of this trait, that it is well worth extracting in this connection. An Essex farmer, after having so well counterfeited recovery as to produce his liberation, and being sent back again, immediately became tranquil, and remonstrated on the injustice of his confinement. Having once deceived me he wished much that my opinion should be taken respecting the state of his intellect, and assured his friends that he would submit to any determination. I had taken care to be well prepared for this interview, by obtaining an accurate account of the manner in which he had conducted

himself. At this examination he managed himself with admirable address. He spoke of the treatment he had received from the persons under whose care he was there placed, as most kind and fatherly; he also expressed himself as particularly fortunate in being under my care, and bestowed many handsome compliments on my skill in treating this disorder; and expatiated on my sagacity in perceiving the slightest tinges of insanity. When I wished him to explain certain parts of his conduct, and particularly some extravagant opinions, respecting certain persons and circumstances, he disclaimed all knowledge of such circumstances, and felt himself hurt that my mind should have been poisoned so much to his prejudice. He displayed equal sulkiness on three other occasions when I visited him; although by protracting the conversation, he let fall sufficient to satisfy my mind that he was a madman. In a short time he was removed to the hospital, when he expressed great satisfaction in being under my inspection. The private mad house which he had formerly so much commended, now became the subject of severe animadversion; he said he had been there treated with extreme cruelty; that he had been nearly starved, and eaten up by vermin of various descriptions. On enquiring of some convalescent patients, I found, (as I had suspected) that it was no much the subject of abuse, when absent as any of his supposed enemies, although to my face, he was courteous and respectful. More than a month had elapsed since his admission into the hospital, before he pressed me for my opinion; probably confiding in his address and hoping to deceive me. At length he appealed to my decision, and urged the correctness of his conduct during confinement, as an argument for his liberation. But, when I informed him of circumstances he supposed me unacquainted with, and assured him, that he was a proper subject for the asylum which he then inhabited, he suddenly poured forth a torrent of abuse; talked in the most incoherent manner; insisted on the truth of what he formerly denied; breathed vengeance against his family and friends; and became so outrageous that it was necessary to order him to be strictly confined. He continued in a state of unquenching fury for more than fifteen months."

Key's Med. Jur. page 44.

Partial insanity is perfectly consistent with the exercise of clear and strong reasoning powers upon all other trains of thought except that connected with the insane idea.

"A person," says Dr. Ray "may regard his child with the feelings natural to the paternal bosom, at the very moment he believes himself commanded by a voice from heaven to sacrifice this child

in order to secure its eternal happiness, than which, of course, he could not accomplish a greater good. The conviction of a maniac's soundness on certain subjects, is based in part on the moral aspect, in which he views those subjects; for, it would be folly to consider a person rational, in reference to his parents or children, while he labours under an idea, that it would be doing God's service to kill them; though he may sensibly talk rationally of their characters, disposition and habits of life, their chances of success in their occupations, their past circumstances, and of the feelings of affection, which he has always cherished towards them. Before, therefore, an individual can be accounted sane on a particular subject it must appear that he regards it correctly, in all its relations to right and wrong. The slightest acquaintance with the insane will convince any one of the truth of this position. In no school of logic, in no assembly of the just, can we listen to closer and stronger argumentation, to warmer exhortations to duty, to more glowing descriptions of the beauty of virtue, or more indignant denunciations of evil doing, than in the hospitals and asylums for the insane. And yet many of those very people may make no secret of entertaining notions utterly subversive of all moral propriety; and, perhaps, are only waiting a favourable opportunity, to execute some project of wild and cruel violence. The parent minds cannot express greater horror and loathing of various crimes, than madmen often do, and from precisely the same causes. Their abstract conceptions of crime, not being perverted by the influence of disease, present its hideous outlines as strongly defined, as they ever were in the healthiest condition; and the disapprobation they express at the sight arises from sincere and honest convictions. The *particular* criminal act, however becomes divorced in their minds from its relations to crime in the abstract; and, being regarded only in connection with some favorite object, which it may help to obtain, and which they see no reason to refrain from getting, is viewed, in fact as of a highly laudable and meritorious nature."

Bay's Med. Jar. page 32.

Insanity, however, is not confined to the intellectual faculties alone.

It seems now to be settled by the best of medical authority, that the propensities and sentiments may become deranged, and this is denominated moral mania, or moral insanity—consisting in a morbid perversion of the natural feelings, affections, temper, habits and moral dispositions, or a morbid condition and excitement of the

passions and feelings. This also may be general or partial.

"An irresistible propensity to steal"—"an inordinate propensity to lying"—"a morbid activity of the passions"—"a morbid propensity to incendiarism"—"and a morbid propensity to destroy; when the individual without provocation or any other rational motive, apparently in the full possession of his reason, and oftentimes, in spite of his most strenuous efforts to resist, imbrues his hands in the blood of others, are set down as among the characteristics of partial moral insanity. It is principally cases of the latter character, which have occupied the attention of the judicial tribunals; and it will ere long be more generally admitted, that the want of proper information respecting this form of insanity has consigned to the gallows many unfortunate individuals, who should have been committed to the custody of some skillful superintendent of a lunatic hospital, instead of being delivered over to the executioner.

Several cases of this character are stated by Dr. Woodward, Superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester, Massachusetts, in an appendix to the Reports of that Institution, published in 1857.—

"A man now under my care," says he "will in a few moments tear up all his clothes, and then say he was a fool and knew better, and ought to have been punished, yet he could not help the act and often repeats it. A female in the Hospital seized an attendant by the throat, and, would, perhaps, have strangled her if she had not been protected and defended by other patients; this was twice repeated, and yet she declared she had no hostility to the attendants—that they were kind and obliging, but she felt, as she expressed it, that she must kill them; she had no motive, no delusion—she obeyed no secret mandate from a power that she dared not resist and disobey; yet she felt that the impulse to destroy them was irresistible."

Georget mentions a case of a woman who consulted him, and who was evidently healthy and rational, whose irresistible propensity was to murder her children; she abhorred herself for the feeling, and avoided windows and sharp instruments, and often fled from the house to get out of their way."

"Some of the most atrocious homicides on record have been perpetrated under the influence of like feelings. The apparent discordance between the evidence of insanity in such cases and the magnitude of the crime committed has led the best men to doubt and the community to disbelieve the irresponsibility of the individual. The cases of Miller, of Rabello, of Southwick, of Prescott,

two of whom were executed for their crimes, and two were saved by the lucid exposition of the principles of insane impulse, given by the medical witnesses and enforced by intelligent and able counsel will elucidate the view of the subject which I have taken."

Reports &c. page 172.

He then proceeds to give a detail of those cases; and in his fifth report several other cases of individuals, now in the Hospital, are stated. A large number of cases of this character, which have occurred in this country and in Europe, are collected in Dr. Bay's work. Two of them will suffice for the present occasion.

William Bowen was executed at Maidstone, England, in 1817 for strangling a child whom he accidentally met one morning whilst walking in the country. On the trial, he said he had never seen the child before, had no malice against it, and could assign no motive for the dreadful act. He took up the body and laid it on some steps, and then went and told what he had done, requesting to be taken into custody. He bore an exemplary character and had never been suspected of being insane."

"A country gentleman enjoying good health and easy circumstances, consulted Esquire—" (a distinguished French physician) in regard to his singular and unhappy condition. He related that he had read the indictment of Henrietta Greigier² (for the murder of a child) which however did not excite his attention. In the course of the night he suddenly awoke with the thought of killing his wife who was lying beside him. He left his wife's bed for a time, but within three weeks the same idea seized upon his mind three times and always in the night. During the day, moderate exercise and occupation preserved him from this fearful inclination. He retained not the slightest mental disorder; his business was prosperous, he had never experienced any domestic disgraces; and he had no cause of complaint or jealousy in regard to his wife whom he loved and with whom he never had the least disagreement. With the exception of a light headache occasionally he had always been well and free from pain. He is sad and troubled about his condition and has quitted his wife for fear lest he might yield to the force of his desire."

Bay's Med. Juris. page 202.

Cases of partial sexual insanity are undoubtedly to be admitted with great caution and circumspection, but that such do exist seems to be satisfactorily established.

There can be little inducement for any one to attempt the perpetration of crime, with the hope of escaping under this plea, but

whenever there has been a quarrel, or when a motive of any kind operates showing a reason for the commission of the act, such defence would ordinarily be of little avail.

Mental deficiency is treated as a species of insanity, and may be of such a degree as to render the subject of it irresponsible for his acts.

It has been divided into imbecility, and stupidity; the former consisting in a defect of "the power of the mind to examine what is presented to it by the senses, and there from to deduce correct judgments;" the other is an inability of the mind to perceive and embrace what is presented to it. The one is a defect in the reflective powers, and the other in the powers of perception.

In regard to the latter class, or idiots, no difficulty is experienced in ascertaining their state, and in according to them the exemption from punishment which that state requires; but the other class, which often possesses many of the faculties of the mind in the ordinary degree, occasionally presents some of the most difficult cases for the consideration of the legal tribunals.

Georget, a French writer of eminence, after speaking of those whose mental deficiency is such that they have no idea or a very imperfect one of society, laws, and morality, and some of whom have no conception of property, says:-

Among the lower orders of society, are many imbeciles, a little more intelligent than these, and, not considered as utterly devoid of understanding, who, nevertheless have but vague and imperfect notions, of social duties and of justice. They engage in occupations that require to great extent of intellect, and even in the simplest of the mechanic arts. If they do not pass among their acquaintances for imbeciles, they are at least regarded as singular beings, with feeble understandings, and are teased and tormented in innumerable ways. Many of them, for want of some powerfully restraining motive, indulge in drinking, and become lazy, drunken and dissipated, and finally fall into the hands of justice in greater numbers than is generally suspected. They steal audaciously, and hence are considered as very intelligent; they recommence their offences the moment they are released from confinement, and thus are believed to be obstinately perverse; they are violent and passionate, and the slightest motive is sufficient to plunge them into deeds of incendiarism and murder. Those who have strong sexual propensities, soon become guilty of outrages on female chastity. I have had occasion to see many of this class in prison, who had been judicially decided to be rational but whose demi-im-

leality was manifest enough to me."

Boy's Med. Jour., 87.

Among the incidents of this character is the case of John Schmidt, aged 17, who was tried at Metz, in November 1821, for parricide.

"He had manifested from an early age propensity to mischief and even cruelty. As soon as he was old enough to run in the streets, he would amuse himself by throwing stones into the ruts let that ran through the village, in order to spatter and hurt the people who were passing by, many of whom were injured by him. They contented themselves, however, with charging his parents to take care of him, for he was even considered to be mad."

"The first crime in the indictment charged him with wounding on the head his sister—in law in one of their domestic quarrels. The second charged him with an attempt on the life of one of his cousins, whom he pushed into the water while fishing by the side of a pond, and then laughed at his struggle to extricate himself. When he finally succeeded, Schmidt approached him and asked if he was wet, and if the water had reached his skin; the boy, to show that it had, opened his shirt, when Schmidt plunged a knife in his bosom. Happily the wound was not severe."

"On the night of the parricide the father was boiling potatoes. At four o'clock in the morning he called to his wife to come and assist him in lifting the kettle from the fire, but she refused and ordered John to go. John went in his shirt and set the kettle on the floor, and while his father was bending over to stir the potatoes, he struck him a blow with a hatchet lying near, that felled him senseless to the ground. He then proceeded to the garret, where his brother and sister were sleeping, and severely wounded the latter with his hatchet. On being seized by his brother soon after, he asked to see his father (who had just expired); and when gratified in his wish he uttered these remarkable words:—"Ah my dear father, where are you now? What will become of me? You and my mother are the cause of all my misfortune. I predicted it long ago, and if you had brought me up better this would not have happened." When asked what had induced him to commit such an atrocious crime, he answered that the devil individually instigated him. Several witnesses testified that he had always been remarkable for profound piety and religious habits. He confessed that whenever he saw a cutting instrument, such as a hatchet, a knife, &c. he felt the strongest desire to seize it, and would be the first person who came in his way. His wound was—

calmly pleaded in his defence mental derangement, though Schmidt interrupted him by declaring that he was not mad. Shortly before the fatal hour, food was brought to him, but observing it to be meat he refused to eat it, saying that in a few minutes it would be Friday. As he walked heretofore to the place of execution, his confessor asked him if the pavement did not hurt him? "I wish," he replied "they had made us walk on thorns." When arrived at the scaffold, they cut off his head, but he uttered not a word or cry, and remained firm to the last."

Ray 166.

The case of Prescott is regarded by Dr. Ray as of this character. Cases of incredible impulse to kill may well be connected with this imbecility or deficiency of intellect.

Persons of this description often act from motives, in such a manner as to subject themselves to legal accountability, if there was not a deficiency of intellect.

"On the 14th of May, 1833, a young man named John Barclay was executed at Glasgow, for the murder of Samuel Neilson, for whom he had previously showed some affection. He took from him three or four pound notes and a watch, to obtain possession of which seems to have been the cause of the murder. When questioned he could see no difference between killing a man and killing an ox, except that he "would never hear him bellow again;" and so little did he know of the nature of the watch that he regarded it as an animal, and when it stopped from not having been wound up, believed it had died of cold from the glass being broken. So obvious was Barclay's mental deficiency, that the court of Justiciary, before whom he was brought, declined proceeding to his trial till it was decided by medical evidence that he was a fit subject for trial." Notwithstanding the fact that weakness of mind was recognized by all parties on the judge's documents, and that the jury strongly recommended him to mercy on that account, he was condemned and executed."

Ray 147.

Directed as this subject is with judgment, we may well, within these walls, inquire, what has been done, and what measures ought to be adopted for the security of the community, and for the relief of those who are or may become the subjects of this frightful malady.

The answer to the first branch of this question may be comprised in a few words.

Our laws have provided for the appointment of guardians for

the insane; a measure which, however efficacious it may be in the preservation of their property, &c. is very evident can be of little avail in securing the family and friends of the madman, or the community at large, from his insane violence and, it is, perhaps, still less available in aiding to restore him to his right mind. And in addition to this our statute provides, that whenever any person is committed, or in prison, to answer for any crime or offence shall be acquitted by the petit jury, or shall not be indicted by the grand jury by reason of the insanity or mental derangement of such person, and the discharge or going at large of such person, shall be deemed by the court to be dangerous to the safety of the citizens, or the peace of the State, the court is empowered to commit such person to prison, there to be detained till he or she be restored to his or her right mind, or otherwise delivered by due course of law.

In other words, by our statute provision, when it shall be ascertained that an individual has committed an act which would be a crime if he was of sound mind, but which is no crime by reason of mental derangement, he shall be confined in the common prison like a criminal—treated like a criminal—placed in the society of criminals and treated as they are—and that this shall be continued until by such process he shall be restored to his right mind—or be otherwise discharged by due order of law which he may be if his friends will give bonds for his safe keeping, and for the payment of damages sustained by his acts.

There is one particular, however, in which he is unlike the felon, which is, that the latter is punished at the expense of the public, whereas the individual who has committed no crime is punished at his own expense if he has wherewith to pay.

The injustice of such a course needs no comment, but it is exhibited in still more glaring colors, when we consider that the individual thus confined in the common jail is in most instances laboring under disease, and a disease which, like other diseases, yields to medical and moral treatment, if the proper means are used with in a reasonable time after the attack.

From the 45th annual Report of the Trustees of the Massachusetts State Lunatic Hospital, made in December 1857, it appears, that "the proportion of cures of the whole number discharged" since January 1852, is *thirty-five and a half per cent*; of the whole number of recent cases discharged *eighty-six per cent*; and of the old cases discharged *twenty per cent*—and the report proceeds: "Favorable as the general result for five years is, the result for the last year is still more so. It will be

perceived that the proportion of recoveries of all cases discharged during that year is *fifty-seven per cent.*, of the recent cases *eighty-nine and three fifths per cent.*; and of the old cases *twenty-five and one-third per cent.*; being an improvement of two and one half per cent. upon the average, and a much greater upon the result of any one proceeding year."

It will be perceived also, that there has been a regular yearly improvement in the treatment of recent cases, since the opening of the Hospital; of these, in 1854, the recoveries were *eighty-two per cent.*, in 1855, *eighty-two and one half per cent.*, in 1856 *eighty-four and one-fifth per cent.*, in 1857 *eighty-nine and three-fifths per cent.*

In this estimate, all those are denominated *recent cases*, in which the insanity has existed less than one year previous to admission to the Hospital. "These results cannot be considered otherwise than highly favorable, and as establishing, beyond question, the success of the Hospital as a curative institution. The large proportion of recoveries of recent cases affords additional evidence of the truth of a position, lately but little credited, that insanity may be treated with as much certainty of cure as any physical disease of equal severity, provided the proper skill and remedies are resorted to in its earliest stages."

"Two hundred and sixty-seven insane persons have, in five years, been restored to their friends, to society, and to the enjoyment of the blessings of life, from all of which they have been cut off by the severest affliction which can befall suffering humanity. Were the institution to be this moment stricken out of existence, what philanthropist, what statesman would not admit, that this achievement, whether regarded in its relation to the interests of humanity, or to those of civil society, is more than a compensation for all the expense which the Commonwealth has incurred, in its erection and support. But when it is considered, that the institution is to continue its beneficial operations through an indefinite future, and to exert its healing energies upon thousands of our fellow citizens, who might otherwise become the hopeless victims of madness, he must be something less than man, who can doubt the wisdom of the government, or complain of its profuseness in establishing it.

Dr. Bay in his treatise remarks—"It would seem indeed from some reports that in recent cases medical treatment is almost as successful, as in those of long standing it is un-

successful. Dr. Barrows states the proportion of recent cases cured under his care so high as ninety-one in one hundred."

In a report made to our own Legislature, in 1836, by Dr. Luther V. Bell, it is stated that the proportion of recoveries in the Bloomingdale Asylum in New York was some years since nearly in one hundred of the whole number of cases not exceeding one year's standing—And that in the Connecticut Retreat for the Insane "the entire number admitted since its establishment has been 300 of which 253 have been recent cases of these last 220 have recovered, a ratio of a little more than 90 per cent., of 253 old cases, 62 have recovered, a ratio of 27.3-10 per cent.

A report of the Medical Visitors of the Connecticut Retreat, in 1836, gave "a cure of over *seventy-one* per cent. of recent cases and an average of *thirty-one* of all."

The annual report of the McLean Asylum, made January 1, 1838, by Dr. Bell, now the physician and superintendent of that institution, says—"the proportion of recoveries of those discharged during the past year has been in recent cases, 86.1-2 per cent., of old cases, 38 per cent. and of all about 71 per cent.; a measure of success, which it is believed will not be found to have been exceeded in the annals of institutions of this kind."

How long it will take to restore an insane person to his right mind by the medicine of bolts, and bars, and shackles, and by work society and moral influence as he will find within the walls of the common jail, is a problem which the experience of our prison houses has rarely solved. The number discharged "cured" by means of such a process has probably never yet been summed up.

The Reports of the Hospitals respecting the affectionation of the *dumblers*, where no hope of recovery is entertained, is little less satisfactory.

Two cases, from a number stated in the third annual report of the Trustees of the Massachusetts State Lunatic Hospital, will serve to illustrate this part of the subject.

No. 1.—One case, reported by the Commissioners for the erection of the Hospital, had been, when he was brought to the institution, twenty-eight years in prison—seven years he had not felt the influence of fire, and many nights he had not slept from the fear of freezing. He had not been shod for

twenty-eight years, and he had been provoked and excited by the introduction of lunatics to see the exhibitions of his raving. He is now and he has been comfortable in health—well clothed—keeps his bed and room remarkably clean, and although very insane on certain subjects, is most of the time pleasant, companionable, and entirely harmless and docile. He shaves himself twice a week—sits at table with sixteen others—takes his meals—walks about the village and over the fields with an attendant to accompany him, and enjoys himself as well as his illusions will permit. This man committed homicide.”

“No. 2.—An old man of 60 years of age or more; had been *climbed for heavily for years*, and had his chain taken off but once in that time. Has for many months been quiet and civil, and behaves like a gentleman; and although quite insane, keeps his room in order, and takes his meals at table with seventeen others with the utmost propriety.”

Respecting the other branch of our inquiry, what measures might be adopted for the security of the community, and for the relief of the sufferers, can there any longer remain a doubt.

Does not everything point to the propriety and the necessity of the erection and endowment of a Hospital for the Insane.

We have the example of those around us to show the estimation in which such institutions are regarded elsewhere. Maine, and Vermont, and Connecticut have their institutions already in operation. In Massachusetts there are two, and another is to be erected in the city of Boston. In New York there are three erected or in progress. Other States have made provision for similar establishments, and the result to which I have alluded fully sustains the wisdom, to say nothing of the benevolence, of such a procedure.

Many of the insane, it is well known, are furious and dangerous, and with any ordinary mode of treatment require to be guarded and confined. Provision for their security by means of a Hospital must be the most eligible mode of providing for the public safety. It possesses all the means of safety furnished by prisons and cages, and even greater bestowed as by the mitigation of the disease the patients are rendered less dangerous and in most instances harmless.

Another benefit to be derived from the establishment of such an institution is the relief thereby afforded to the friends and relations of the insane. We can hardly realize how great is the burden sustained by those who, too kind to permit an insane

relative to be thrown upon the unavailing charity of the towns, and of means too limited to provide for them at private asylums, have made hospitals of their dwelling houses, and nurses and attendants of themselves through wearying days and nights until exhausted nature has almost sunk under the effort. Language is inadequate to portray the reality with the coloring of truth, and it is not the least among the recommendations of public hospitals that they enable the friends of such patients, either to place them upon the foundation of a respectable and efficient charity, or to provide for them at an expense within the limits of their ability.

But the great recommendation of such an establishment undoubtedly is its efficiency in the alleviation of disease, the promotion of the happiness of the patients, and in the final cure of the malady.

The numbers of the deaf and dumb in the State are few compared with those of the insane, but legislative aid in their favor has closed the dumb to speak, if not in articulate sounds, in a language which enables them to become the recipients and communicants of knowledge; and instead of remaining burdens upon society, they are taking an active part in its affairs, pursuing many branches of industry, and promoting their own happiness and that of their friends.

The numbers of the blind are still less, but the public munificence, or rather justice, if it has not the power of bestowing sight, has given them to a considerable extent, the means of education.

The blind read in books prepared for their use—they traverse the towns and villages without attendants—the specimens of their industry would oft-times do credit to one who is possessed of the power of vision—and their voices swell the choir in praise of Him who has influenced the hearts and minds of their fellows to become the active agents in bestowing such blessings.

An efficient legislative action has at last been extended to the condition of the insane, if not in such measure as to accomplish all that is needed, to such an extent that private benevolence may well persevere in its labors.

It is to that benevolence that they are now committed, and let us hope that it will not fail to accomplish what it has so well begun.

N. H. Patriot, October 15-22-29, 1838.

Hospital for the Insane.

At a meeting of the members of the Corporation on Thursday last, the following gentlemen were elected Trustees on the part of the subscribers:

Amos Twitchell, Keene; John H. Steele, Peterborough; Daniel Abbott, Nashua; Dixie Crosby, Hanover; Joseph Low, Concord; William Hale, Dover; Sam'l E. Conso and Alfred W. Haven, Portsmouth. Four Trustees are to be appointed by the State, and the Board when thus filled, will determine upon the location. The Institution will of course be located centrally where it will be of easy access to the people of all parts of the State, and convenient for the Board of Visitors and committees of the Legislature, to overlook its proceedings. It will be essentially a State Institution, endowed in the first instance by the State with more than half its funds, and depending upon the same source for such further aid as may be needed for its successful operation.

N. H. Patriot, Jan. 14 1839.

N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

We learn that at a meeting of the Board of Visitors of this Corporation, holden in this town last Tuesday, Hon. WILLIAM RANSICK of Gilmanton, JAMES COLEMAN, Esq. of Jaffrey, CHARLES D. PRADIER, Esq. of Concord, and JESSE GRISSET, Esq. of Kenney, were appointed Trustees, and an adjourned meeting of the members of the Corporation is to be holden at the Eagle Coffee House next Wednesday, as we understand, for the transaction of such business as may be suggested.

N. H. Patriot, Jan. 28, 1839.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

At an adjourned meeting of the Corporation of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane holden at Greville Hall in Concord, Jan. 30, 1839. Dr. Amos Twitchell of Keene, was elected President. Hon. Isaac Waldron of Portsmouth, Vice

President, James Thom, Esq. of Deery, Treasurer, and Dr. Dix Crosby of Hamover, Secretary.

Resolved, That Samuel B. Woodward, Luther V. Bell and William H. Rockwell, Superintendents of the Asylums of Massachusetts and Vermont with three persons to be appointed by the Corporation, be a committee to decide upon the location of the Asylum, and that the Trustees be and hereby are instructed to accept the report of a majority of said committee and act accordingly.

Resolved, To elect three persons to be joined to Samuel B. Woodward, Luther V. Bell and William H. Rockwell, as a committee of location. Whereupon, Dr. Amos Twichell of Keene, G. W. Haven, Esq. of Portsmouth, and Charles H. Pender, Esq. of Concord, were chosen.

Resolved, That the Committee appointed to select a site for the Asylum be directed to inquire what sums will be contributed toward the purchase of land and the erection of buildings by individuals, and take the same into consideration, along with the cheapness of materials and labor, and such other matters as may properly have a bearing in determining the location.

Resolved, That the Committee appointed to locate the Asylum, appoint time and places, when and where they will hear all persons who wish to be heard on this subject, and that they give notice thereof in the papers printed in Concord.

Resolved, That the Secretary publish as much of the proceedings of this meeting as he may think proper.

DIX CROSBY, *Secretary*.

Editors throughout the State may render a favor upon these petitions by copying the above.

N. H. Patriot, Feb. 18, 1839.

The Insane Hospital.

It seems to be the determination of certain individuals to "rule or ruin" the institution, or to govern the accomplishments of the benevolent objects for which it was created. Among these individuals the editor of the *Keene Sentinel* is most prominent. But for his mismanagement, and perhaps that of one individual of Portsmouth, who controlled the proceedings of the last meeting of the corporation, by withholding from

if fifty proxies, to vote down the members present, as well as to establish rules completely nullifying the voice of the State, it is believed no difficulty would have ever occurred.

The editor of the Sentinel has repeatedly charged Gov. Hill, with unlawfully refusing to transfer the stock in the N. H. Bank, voted to the institution.—Now how is this? By the act of incorporation, it is provided, that whenever "satisfactory evidence shall be presented to the Governor, that the sum of fifteen thousand has been paid or secured to be paid, by individuals, &c. thereupon the Governor shall issue his order to the Treasurer of the State, directing him to transfer the thirty shares," &c.

By Mr. Prentiss' own paper of last Wednesday it appears, that as late as last week, the "Treasurer presented evidence that about \$14,000 of the \$15,000, required (and \$18,000 subscribed) had been secured." By this it would appear that the Governor finally, after all the delay complained of, actually ordered the transfer of the stock before the law had been complied with on the part of the corporation, and before the \$15,000 required had "been paid or secured to be paid." And it is a fact, that when the Treasurer of the Corporation, first applied for a transfer of the stock, scarcely any portion of the \$15,000 had been paid or secured, and that but a small portion even of the subscription papers were in his hands? Yet Mr. Prentiss for many weeks has been crying and complaining that the Governor unlawfully withheld the order of transfer.

Hencefore we have forbore making any allusions to the subject from a sincere desire that all difficulties would be amicably adjusted, and that the benevolent and piousworthy objects might be carried forward in harmony. From the same desire, we now forbear going into a detail of the proceedings which meant to deprive the State, as the largest contributor, of any voice in the affairs of the corporation, by nullifying the power of the Trustees. There are no difficulties in the way now, if men are actuated by the noble and patriotic desire of establishing an institution with reference only to the interests and honor of the whole State, and not by the narrow and mercenary motive of promoting the interests of a village or town perhaps upon the borders or in one corner of the State, to the detriment of all the other [sections] of the State.

The Trustees having assumed the duties manifestly intend

to be conferred on them by the act of incorporation, we trust and believe that the institution may now go forward without further interruption.

N. H. Patriot, May 27, 1839.

MESSAGE.

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE INSANE HOSPITAL.

Speeches of the Senate, and House of Representatives—

I had at this time expected to address no additional communication to the Legislature, other than to take the usual leave of its members, until circumstances which have transpired recently in relation to a law of the last session seem to render such a step expedient, if not necessary.

At the last sitting of the Legislature was passed the act incorporating the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane. This act granted funds of the State to the value of about eighteen thousand dollars, provided that individuals should pay or secure to be paid from other sources the further sum of fifteen thousand dollars for the same object. It also enacted that the said Asylum should be under the direction and management of a Board of Trustees consisting of twelve persons, four of whom were to be appointed on the part of the State, and the remainder elected by the Corporation. The proper appropriation and application of the funds voted by the State in behalf of this benevolent object was supposed to be amply secured by a provision giving to the State a representation of its funds to this extent; and it was supposed no possible jealousy or distrust could be entertained by the individual members of the Corporation while they had the selection of a majority of two-thirds of that Board.

The act made further provision that the Governor and Council, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the time being, should constitute a Board of Visitors on the part of the State, to visit and inspect the institution, as often as might be necessary, and to examine the by-laws and regulations and the general management thereof, and generally to see that the design of the

institution shall be carried into full effect: and that this Board should report to the Legislature the result of its examination.

A considerable time after the passage of the act was required to raise the requisite subscriptions required by the act: consequently no organization under it so as to elect Trustees took place until January last, at which time eight Trustees were elected on the part of the subscribers, and four Trustees have since been appointed on the part of the State.

No progress in the location and erection of the necessary buildings for the Asylum has been made, and of course no visit or inspection could take place on the part of the Board of Visitors: but a code of by-laws and regulations has been adopted by the subscribers to the fund for the general management of the institution, which it is made the duty of the Board to examine.

These by-laws were furnished the Board of Visitors at a meeting called for the purpose of their examination; and at this meeting such action was had in relation to them as the Board deemed to be fitting their general duty of superintendence.

According to the unanimous opinion of the Board of Visitors, the by-laws which had been adopted by the subscribers were framed under an entire misapprehension of the spirit in which the donation was made by the State, and of the essential provisions of the charter. The departure from these provisions involved principles of such importance, that the Board deemed it to be a duty to express its opinion in relation to them, on account of the conflicting opinions which had already arisen, and which must necessarily continue to exist, unless the rights of the respective parties to the corporation could be ascertained and maintained. Their action on this subject it becomes my duty to communicate to the Legislature. The proceedings of the Board of Visitors, together with the several sections of the by-laws relating to the power of the Trustees, and other votes and doings of the subscribers in the Asylum, are herewith transmitted.

It will be perceived, that the by-laws take away all power and control from the Trustees, and vest it entirely in the private subscribers to the fund, calling themselves, in their collective character, the Corporation. According to these by-laws no act can be done by the Board of Trustees except such as may be directed by the Corporation entirely convened and over ruled, so that the appointment of any Trustees on the part of the State, so far as regards the exercise of any pow-

er, becomes a mere utility. The proceedings of the subscribers in rejecting every proposition, giving to the State any representation for the amount of its donation, show the extent of the power claimed by these subscribers and that I have not mistaken their construction of these by-laws.

The title of the act is to incorporate "the New Hampshires Asylum for the Insane" and when provision was made that the funds of the institution were to be given by different bodies in a certain ratio, and that portions of the Trustees were to be appointed by each, that the Asylum was to be under the direction and management of such Board of Trustees, there could have been no possible doubt in the minds of the members of the Legislature, that the entire protection of the mutual rights of the contributing parties was vested in such Board. It would be absurd to suppose, that while they insisted on the rights of the State to appoint a portion of the Trustees, which was the sole basis of union between the public and private contributors, at the same time such a construction should be given as would totally destroy all power in one party contributing, and give it wholly to the other; and that even the small power nominally given to the Trustees should be a mere control of the buildings, *after they should be erected*, and the action of the Trustees on the most trivial matter entirely taken away by the by-laws.

It is clear that the construction put upon the act by the private subscribers was never designed by the Legislature. The corporators might make by-laws regulating their own meetings; they might do other acts respecting their own management as a corporation apart from the power of the trustees. In all other respects the entire management and control of the institution, of its funds, its investments and purchases, are vested in the trustees; and the corporation, as such, has no power to limit, control or direct their action. The power of the corporation vests in the trustees as fully and as fully for all purposes necessary to carry the charitable object into effect, as the power of the State rests from time to time in her elected representatives embodied in the Legislature. The act creating the corporation vested such power in the trustees. All purchases of lands, devices and bequests are to be received in the name of the corporation, and are held by the corporation, but the only legal power to do acts binding the Corporation in any of these respects is in the

trustees.

These views were fully entertained by the Board of Visitors.

The by-laws adopted by the corporation undertake to limit, define and control the power of the trustees, assuming it as their province so to do. The same by-laws also provide directly, that all questions coming before the trustees as to the management and concerns of the institution, shall be determined by a majority of the trustees "*except in cases in which it shall be otherwise determined by the corporation,*" thereby expressly claiming the power to control the institution, when the private contributors shall so determine.

The by-laws further provide, that the trustees may make such rules and regulations for the well ordering and conducting the Asylum as to them may seem proper: "*provided, however, that such rules and regulations shall at all times be subject to be altered or extended by the corporation at the annual meeting, or at any legal meeting called for that purpose.*"

The by-laws likewise prescribe the officers of the trustees—that they shall choose a chairman, instead of a president as is usual in other boards of trustees; and the original draft of the by-laws required that the Secretary of the corporation, who was entirely beyond the election and control of the trustees, should be Secretary of the trustees.

The proceedings of the corporation herewith transmitted show that every proposition in which the right of the State and of the Trustees were urged either upon the liberality or the justice of the corporation was overruled. The claim of power on the part of the corporation against the State and the Trustees was in all respects objected to and resisted, but with no avail.

No proposition favoring the rights of the State and the trustees was adopted, saving recinding the provisions, which made the Secretary of the corporation the Secretary of the Trustees. I have been informed, however, that in every vote passed, a majority of the individuals present was opposed to this assumption of power by the corporation. The passage of the vote was effected by proxies, previously obtained, by which a single person threw a large proportion of the votes of the whole meeting.

The collection of proxies by a few individuals and thus attempting to control the rightful power of the Trustees, although

it is merely a void act, is calculated to occasion dissatisfaction and dissension. It is essential to the welfare of the institution, that the proper duties and powers of the corporation should be settled beyond all question, and be understood by all, at the outset, otherwise chaos may be had for endless collision. Such was the opinion of the Board of Visitors.

The proceedings of a majority of the present board of trustees, appointing a committee to recommend a suitable place of location for the Asylum, also recommending the passage of an explanatory act to that constituting the Asylum for the Insane, which are herewith transmitted, were communicated to the Board of Visitors in the belief that they would meet the approbation of the Legislature and of all true friends to the institution. These views were concurred in by the Board; and the funds were transferred to the trustees in the confident hope and expectation that the proposed act, as well as their action under the present charter, would be cheerfully acquiesced in by a majority, if not by all the corporation. All that seems necessary to immediate progress in the benevolent objects of the institution is, that the recommendation of the Board of Visitors and trustees shall be adopted.

I have considered it expedient to communicate the proceedings of the Board of Visitors, with other matters, together with these remarks, for the reason that new causes of collision seem to be sought in a public advertisement calling a further meeting of the subscribers by the same interest concerned in the previous exceptionable doings, and for the reason that misrepresentations of the matter in controversy, and of the motives of those interested in behalf of the State, have been made.

Similar reports have been circulated of the motives of the trustees and others, who have taken an interest for the rights of the State, of designs as to the location of the institution. If it should turn out that the trustees in behalf of the State are only anxious to carry into effect the wishes of a large majority of the people, who are most interested in this as a public institution—that they are entirely unconnected and free to receive propositions and advice or aid from all such as are best informed to guide them in the faithful discharge of their duty, such accusations must hereafter be withdrawn. The matter in controversy is of a deeper and higher character than a mere question of location—it is whether the State will, without resistance, see its rights trampled upon, and the small portion of

control to a great public charity, which have been reserved to herself, shall be forced from her.

It is hoped and wished that the benevolent intentions of the Legislature may not be changed by any unanticipated difficulties and collisions that may have occurred; but that the representatives of the people will assert the supremacy of their laws in an extended charity for the relief of the suffering insane, who are greater claimants upon the public benevolence, than any other class which has hitherto been favored with the public support.

ISAAC HILL,

Council Chamber, June 4, 1829.

The following is a copy of the votes of the Corporation of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane held in Concord in Jan. last.

Mr. Haven presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That Luther V. Bell, Samuel B. Woodward, William H. Rockwell, and Lewis Dwight be a committee to decide upon the location of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane; and that the Trustees be and hereby are instructed to accept the report of said Committee, and to act accordingly.

Motion was made to adjourn to meet at this place to-morrow morning at eight o'clock. Which motion did not prevail.

The following amendment was offered by Mr. Parker, and accepted by Mr. Haven:

Voted, That Samuel B. Woodward, Luther V. Bell and William H. Rockwell, Superintendents of the Asylums in Massachusetts and Vermont, with three persons to be appointed by the Corporation, be a Committee to decide upon the location of the Asylum; and that the Trustees be and hereby are instructed to accept the report of a majority of said Committee, and act accordingly.

Hon. J. Darling proposed the following amendment.

That the report of the Committee to be thus appointed, shall be final and conclusive, when and only when approved by two thirds of the board of Trustees.—Not adopted.

Mr. Kent, of Concord moved as an amendment to Judge Parker's resolution that the words "to be appointed by the Corporation" be stricken out, and the words "two of them shall

be appointed by the board of Visitors." Not adopted.

Motion was now made to adjourn and lost.

Gen. Coffey of New London moved as an amendment that the report of the Committee shall be final and conclusive, when and not until approved by a majority of the Trustees. Not adopted.

Mr. Steele of Peterborough offered an amendment, That the board of trustees be authorized to locate the Asylum by a vote of two thirds, and if they cannot locate, they shall appoint a committee out of the State for that purpose; which amendment was lost by a vote of 19 to 34.

Second amendment by Mr. Steele:

That the Trustees be authorized and directed to appoint a committee out of the State, whose duty it shall be to locate the Asylum. Lost 21 to 47.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Steele lost by vote 91 to 81.

VOTED, to adopt Judge Parker's amendment which prevailed, 19 to 47.

VOTED, to elect three persons to be joined to Samuel B. Woodward, Luther V. Bell, and William H. Rockwell, as a committee for location. Warrenson Amos Twitchell of Keene, G. W. Haven of Portsmouth and Charles W. Peaslee of Concord were chosen.

VOTED, That the Trustees make and publish an appeal to the public for more funds. That they publish the Charter and by-laws; amount of subscriptions, and where from, and the names of the members of the Corporation.

VOTED, That the Trustees be a committee to prepare, and present a memorial to the Legislature, asking for a further grant to constitute a fund, the income of which shall be applied, under the direction of the Trustees, in aid of such of the inmates as are not paupers, but whose means are too limited to enable them to sustain the whole expense of a residence in the Asylum.

VOTED, That the board appointed to select a site for the Asylum be directed to inquire what sums will be contributed towards the purchase of land, and the erection of buildings, by individuals, and take the same into consideration along with disbursements of materials and labor, and such other matters, as may properly have a bearing in determining the location.

VOTED, That the committee appointed to locate the Asylum

appoint times and places, when and where they will hear all persons, who wish to be heard on this subject, and will give notice thereof in the papers in Concord. A true copy of the records,

DIXIE CROSBY, Secretary.

Copy of the By-laws of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane.

Article 10th of the By-laws of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane.

The Trustees herein directed to be elected, together with four others to be appointed agreeably to act of Incorporation, shall constitute a board for the immediate management of all the property and concerns of the institution, seven of whom shall constitute a quorum. They shall meet at such time and place as they shall determine, and all questions coming before the board, shall be determined by a majority of the Trustees present and voting thereon, *except in cases in which it shall be otherwise ordered by the vote of the Corporation.* They shall have power to take any measures, they may deem expedient for encouraging subscriptions, donations, and bequests to the Corporation; to petition the Legislature for any additional privileges or grants; and for such amendments and alterations of the several acts relative to the corporation, as they may deem advisable, to take charge of and to watch over the general interests and concerns of the institution; to enter into and bind the corporation by such compacts, agreements, and engagements as they may deem advantageous; to appoint annually or otherwise all proper and necessary physicians, surgeons, officers, assistants and servants for the superintendence and management of the Asylum, with such salaries and allowances, as they, from time to time may fix and determine; to make such rules and regulations for the government of the said physicians, officers, assistants, and servants, and for the admission of patients, and the well collecting and conducting the Asylum, as to them may seem proper and expedient—*provided, however, that the said rules and regulations shall at all times be subject to be altered or cascaded by the corporation, at the annual meeting or at any legal meeting called for that purpose.* They shall cause a fair record of all their proceedings to be

kept, which be laid before the corporation at every meeting thereof. They shall make a written report on the Treasurer's accounts, and on the general state of the institution, comprising a statement of the number of patients admitted and discharged during the year, for which purpose they may appoint a committee from their own board.

Copy of the resolutions passed at the Board of Visitors. May last.

Resolved, That the act incorporating the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane was exceedingly liberal in its provisions to the Corporation, giving to them a selection of two thirds of the Trustees, while but one third was to be appointed by the State, though the State contributed equally to its funds. That the design of the act was, that these funds should be under the entire control of the Trustees, in which board the State has this limited representation, while a large majority was appointed by the Corporation, and that it was never anticipated, that all power should be taken from the State, and the object of the appointment of Trustees by them be entirely nullified, by placing such Board wholly under the control of the Corporation, thus taking away the whole fund, and depriving the State of any voice or control in the institution, and electing in substance the whole twelve Trustees, and managing the Corporation independent of State representation.

Resolved, That such is the result above named by us, of the action of the Corporation, and such are the express provisions of their by-laws, and the design as openly avowed in them—that the by-laws of the Corporation claim to reserve to the Corporation the right to determine what majority of the Trustees shall be sufficient to effect the transaction of any business by the Board of Trustees, and provides, that all regulations of superintendence and management of the Asylum shall at all times be subject to be altered and amended by the Corporation at any annual meeting or other meetings called for that purpose; and undertake to specify the duties of the Trustees in all other respects, and to fix and to limit them, and of course claims the right at all times to vary and alter them, as they shall see fit—thus totally destroying and overruling the charge and management of the interests of said Corporation in the

Board of Trustees, when it had been especially enabled by the act of incorporation, and taking away the little remnant of power and representation originally retained in the State. That there is no pretence that the Corporation have authority to make by-laws other than to govern their own proceedings, independent of the Trustees, and some regulations as to the internal economy and government of the Asylum, and that the attempt on their part to specify, limit and control the action of the Trustees in all respects, is entirely contrary to the spirit and provisions of the charter.

Resolved, That however deeply we regard the interests of the institution, and however much we would sacrifice individual feeling on such a subject, our imperative duty to the State as a Board of Visitors, who are required by the charter to visit and inspect the Asylum and examine the by-laws and regulations, and general management of the same, and to see that the design of the institution is carried into full effect, and annually to report to the Legislature the result of the examination, requires, that we protest against such proceedings—and we recommend, that until some harmony of action can be agreed upon by the Trustees on the part of the State and the Corporation—or until some satisfactory assurance be given of assent to the necessary measures to be adopted to secure their proper power in the Trustees, that his Excellency the Governor do not transfer the funds of the State appropriated to this object.

The following communication received from the Trustees of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane was read at the Board, viz: To the Board of Visitors of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane.

The following is a true copy of the proceedings and votes passed at a meeting of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, held at Green Hall in Concord (in pursuance of notice by the Secretary) on the 16th day of May, A. D. 1839 at 7 o'clock P. M.—John H. Steele being present and Chairman. Charles H. Peaslee was chosen Secretary Pro tem.

Resolved, That Dr. Woodward, Dr. Bell and Dr. Rockwell be a committee to recommend to the Trustees of the N. H. Asy-

him for the Insane the most suitable place, in their opinion, for its location.

Resolved, That John H. Steele, Samuel E. Coors, and Joseph Low, Esqrs. be a committee to receive applications and proposals for the location of said Asylum, and make a report to the committee appointed to recommend a place of location, and to afford said committee such aid as may be necessary to the performance of their duties.

Resolved, That the following amendment be recommended to be made at the next session of the Legislature, viz: "An Act to amend and to be explanatory of an act to incorporate the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane:

"*Sec. 1.* *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened*, That the direction, management and control of all the property and concerns of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane shall be vested in the Board of Trustees appointed by said corporation and by the State, and the said Board of Trustees shall have power to take any measures they may deem expedient in encouraging subscriptions, donations and bequests for the corporation, and to take charge of and watch over the general interests and concerns of the institution—to enter into and bind the corporation by such contracts, agreements and engagements as they may deem advantageous to such an institution, and shall appoint their own President, Secretary and Treasurer, and all proper necessary physicians, surgeons, officers, assistants and servants, for the superintendence and management of the Asylum with such salaries and allowances, as they may from time to time fix upon and determine, and make such other rules and regulations for the government of the said physicians, surgeons, officers, assistants and servants, and for the admission of patients and the well ordering and conducting of the Asylum, and such by-laws for their own government, as to them may seem proper and expedient. And said trustees shall have the appropriation and control of all funds, devices, grants of land and bequests made with such corporation with power to convey the same and make such investment of the same at such time, place, and manner, as they shall deem proper, and so may best promote the interests of said corporation.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That said trustees shall keep a full record of all their proceedings, which shall at all

times be kept open to the inspection of any incorporator or subscriber to such institution, and shall annually make and publish a statement of the concerns of said institution, and the accounts of the treasury, the number of patients admitted and discharged, and all other matter connected with the general interest and welfare of the corporation, and shall at times communicate any information in reference to the institution that may be desired by vote of the corporation or board of visitors or either branch of the Legislature.

Signed by John H. Steele,
Daniel Abbott,
Isaac Hill,
S. E. Cones,
Charles H. Peaslee,
Joseph Love,

Charles H. Peaslee, Sec. pro tem.

Votes of the Board of Visitors

Whereas a certified copy of the proceedings and votes of the trustees of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, passed at a meeting of said trustees, duly notified and held in Concord on the 15th inst. has been furnished the board. Therefore—

Resolved, That such proceedings and assent to an amendment of the charter be considered as a sufficient assurance that the rights of the trustees and State will be secured, and that we recommend that the Governor, on such assurance, and having received satisfactory evidence that the sum required by the original act has been secured to the corporation, transfer the stock to said Asylum.

Passed, That the Board of Visitors recommend the passage of the above amendment of an act to incorporate the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane.

N. H. Patriot & State Gazette.

June 17, 1858.

The inquiry is every day made, why the President of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane does not promulgate the report of the locating committee, or call the Trustees together, to submit that report to their consideration. The people are anxious for the reasons which induced the committee to lo-

ente the *New Hampshire Asylum* on the borders of *Idaho*—and a few are so unreasonable as to speak of the decision of the committee as most extraordinary. For ourselves we will not make up an opinion until we see all the reasons by which the committee were governed—perhaps they will appear entirely satisfactory.

N. H. Patriot.

August 27 1837

INSANE ASYLUM

We learn that the Committee for locating the N. H. Asylum for the Insane, in making their report have given no reasons for their decision; but merely say, that having considered the subject, they select Portsmouth as the place of location. Now there may be good and sufficient reasons for this decision—but we venture the opinion, that these reasons are not so self evident and obvious that one in ten of our citizens will be able to discover them, unless specified by the committee. We have been told all along that the committee would make a detailed report, stating all the circumstances connected with a location in the several places, and setting forth the advantages which the place selected, possesses, in their opinion, over the other places proposed. The Trustees and the community could then judge of the sufficiency of these reasons. If the reasons were conclusive the Trustees and the community would of course acquiesce. But in the absence of all reasons, it becomes the Trustees to exercise their own judgment, and confirm or reject the report as to them shall seem proper. As to the pledge, which we hear about, of acquiescence in the report of the committee, if any such was given, the subsequent action of the legislature has absolved the Trustees from that, and left them at perfect freedom to pursue such course as to them shall seem proper and right. At any rate, as the committee had no reasons to give, the people will at least expect of the Trustees good and sufficient reasons of their own conduct—a better reason certainly will be expected than that they had blindly surrendered the interests of the people of this State, to be disposed of by a committee residing out of the State, and which does not even condescend to give one single reason for its conduct.

N. H. Patriot.

Sept. 2. 1837.

New Hampshire Insane Hospital.—The New Hampshire Patriot is quite severe in its strictures upon the committee appointed to locate the hospital, because they selected Portsmouth, at one corner of the State, and give no reasons for their choice. The Vermont hospital is located on the eastern border of that State; cannot the Patriot see that therefore it might be desirable with some folks to locate the New Hampshire hospital as far as possible from Vermont without carrying it absolutely into Maine?—*Worcester Palladium.*

It requires but half an eye to see all this and more too. Not only was the Principal of the Brattleborough Institution interested to send the New Hampshire Asylum out of the range of its own patronage, but the Principal of the Charlestown Institution also well knew that the people of the interior of this State have ten times as much intercourse with Boston and Charlestown as with Portsmouth. *There was a man* you say with the committee in examining all sites in the central towns—pure, soft water, must be had in such positions as to be conveniently carried in pipes, to the *chapel story* of the Hospital. But *colder, pure, soft water,* was not mentioned at Portsmouth, and a location was selected where not a drop of water can be carried in pipes to any part of the proposed building. The whole proceeding of going about to examine sites was as complete a farce as was ever enacted—and it is now apparent that the minds of the committee were all made up before they started, and their opinions known to the *scribes* before their appointment.

N. H. Patriot.

Sept. 9, 1853.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASYLUM.—The Trustees met in this town last Wednesday and organized by choosing JOHN H. STERIL, President, HENRY CROSBY Secretary, and JAMES THOM, Treasurer. The Trustees voted to reject report of the locating committee, which vote was afterwards reconsidered, and the subject postponed to the 20th June next. These proceedings amount to a virtual rejection of the report of the Committee, and the subject remains open for the action of the Legislature.

We would say one word to those that condemn what we have said on the subject of the Asylum, and who attribute our remarks as disappointment because the committee did not fix on Concord as the place of location. Now we have nev-

or even named Concord in this connection. All that we have insisted on was, that the people of the State, whose money has been appropriated to the object, have an equal interest in the Institution, and have a right to demand that it shall be located in such a place as shall be most conveniently accessible from every part of the State, if such a location can be found combining the other requisite facilities. We care not whether the Institution be located in Concord or not. All we say is, that it should be located where the whole people can derive profit, and the greatest possible advantages from the Institution. We have not spoken for Concord, but have raised our voice in behalf of the people of New Hampshire, who contributed their means to build up an Institution for their own State, and not one, the benefits of which were to be shared *jointly* with the State of Maine.

N. H. Estlin.

Sept. 16, 1839.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The following record of the proceedings of the Trustees at their last meeting has been communicated to us for publication by the Secretary. It will be seen that the Report of the "pure, soft water" committee is endorsed, and it will be seen that the gentlemen who voted in favor of locating the Institution on a point of land projecting some miles from the easterly corner of the State into Maine, also voted to *reject* the provision of the amended charter, after having pledged their assentance by previously amending their by-laws so as to endorse the same provision. Sixty acres of land, an old house and well water, or water raised by a steam engine, it seems would answer the purpose at Portsmouth; whilst one hundred acres at least, new buildings, and pure, soft water, carried in pipes to the third story, would only answer any where else. But "gentle society" for the insane from the dingy, cages, chains and jails, according to one of the trustees, could only be found in Portsmouth, and possibly this circumstance had great weight with the soft water committee. But we have no disposition to multiply words or unnecessarily to provoke controversy upon this subject. We only wish that the Asylum may go for-

ward, and in such a manner too, as to promote the best interests of the unfortunate class for whom it was designed, and the best interests of the people of this State,

For the N. H. Patriot.

The Trustees of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane met, agreeably to the call of the chairman at the Eagle Coffee House in Concord on Wednesday Sept. 11th, 1859 at 6 o'clock.

Present Messrs. Steele, Atherton, Abbott, Hill, Twitchell, Conant, Low, Cones, Peaslee, Haven and Crosby.

Mr. Atherton, called for the reading of the records of the last meeting—which were read by the Secretary.

Mr. Conant moved to organize the board agreeably to the provisions of the amended charter.

Motion was made to postpone Mr. Conant's motion.

The Yeas and Nays being called for were as follows:

Yeas Messrs. Atherton, Abbott, Twitchell, Cones and Haven.

Nays Messrs. Steele, Hill, Conant, Low, Peaslee and Crosby.

On motion to adopt Mr. Conant's motion.

Yeas Messrs. Steele, Hill, Conant, Low, Peaslee and Crosby.

Nays Messrs. Atherton, Abbott, Twitchell, Cones and Haven.

The ballots being collected and counted John H. Steele, Esq. was declared unanimously elected President and James Thos Esq. Treasurer.

Moved to proceed to classify the trustees and determine by lot the term of office of each class which resulted in the following.

1st. Class. To go out of office at the end of the first year.

<i>Corporation Trustees</i>	<i>State Trustees,</i>
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G. W. Haven.	John Conant.
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S. E. Cones.	
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2nd. Class. To go out at the end of the second year.

Amos Twitchell.	Josiah Quincy.
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John H. Steele.	
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3rd. Class. To go out at the end of the third year.

Daniel Abbott.	Isaac Hill.
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Joseph Low.	
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4th. Class. To go out at the end of the fourth year.

C. H. Atherton.	C. H. Peaslee
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Isaac Crosby.	
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The President read the following report of the Locating Committee.

To the Trustees of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane.

The Committee appointed to fix upon a location for the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, at a final meeting holden at the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester, the 28th day of July 1839, Report.—That they have examined the various places pointed out to them by the Committee of the Trustees and after mature deliberation do decide that said Asylum be located at Portsmouth on the conditions offered by said town.

They further report that the spacious and splendid mansion known as the Cutts house, as being in every respect calculated for the central edifice of an Insane establishment and thus saving a heavy outlay of money, and the thirty acres of land now connected with the same is the most eligible situation for said Asylum. Provided said house and land can be obtained for a sum not exceeding six thousand dollars, and that not less than thirty additional acres of land adjoining can be acquired at a price not exceeding one hundred dollars per acre. Provided that the road on the north side of said house shall be so changed in its direction as to afford sufficient quantity of land obtained to allow a wing to be added on the north side of the house. They also report and decide that in case said Cutts house and additional land and said change in the road cannot be obtained that the next most suitable place is the Freeman farm so called provided not less than sixty acres of land can be obtained of the portion adjoining the river and running back to the highest point of land on the same at a price not exceeding one hundred dollars per acre. They likewise decide that in case neither of the preceding places can be acquired, that the said Asylum be placed on the Hall Farm near the Cemetery in Portsmouth, provided that not less than sixty acres of land can be obtained at a price not exceeding one hundred dollars per acre. They therefore determine and decide that one of these places, having regard to the order in which they are above preferred, in said town of Portsmouth be the location of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane. Which is respectfully submitted.

Samuel B. Woodward,

William H. Rockwell,

Leiber V. Bell.

Mr. Atherton moved the acceptance of the report of the locating committee.

The Yeas and Nays being called were as follows:

Yeas Messrs. Atherton, Abbott, Twitchell, Cones and Haven.

Nays Messrs. Steele, Hill, Conant, Low, Peaslee and Crosby.

After a full and long discussion motion was made by Crosby to reconsider the vote respecting the report of the locating committee.

The Yeas and Nays being called were

Yeas Messrs. Atherton, Abbott, Twitchell, Cones, Haven and Crosby.

Nays Messrs. Steele, Hill, Conant, Low and Peaslee.

Mr. Steele moved to adjourn to meet at this place on the third Wednesday of June, 1835.

Yeas Messrs. Steele, Abbott, Hill, Conant, Low, Peaslee and Crosby.

Nays Messrs. Atherton, Twitchell, Cones and Haven.

After the vote for adjournment had passed and been recorded it was voted that the Secretary publish the proceedings of this meeting with the report of the locating committee.

A true record,

Dix Crosby, Secretary.

Haver, Oct. 11th, 1835.

N. H. Patriot, Oct. 21st, 1835

N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

COL. BATHURST—SIR: Being one of the Trustees of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, I trust you will give the enclosed an insertion in your paper.

Having borne in silence the repeated attacks made by numerous writers in several of the newspapers, it was still my intention to have remained silent—trusting to the good sense of the citizens of New Hampshire for an unbiased justification or condemnation of my conduct in regard to the various transactions connected with the contemplated Hospital, in which I, together with others, have been engaged; even Mr. Haven's

account of the last meeting of the Trustees, one-sided as it is, intolerant as every thing coming from that source is relation to the Hospital always has been; even his contemptible fling at myself would not have provoked a reply; but the letter of confidence from the five Trustees whose names are signed thereto demands at least a passing notice. That letter may have eased the minds of the signers, and had those gentlemen seen fit to confine themselves to a statement of their own views without attempting to criticize those, who differ from them, no one would have objected; but by giving publicity to their letter, it is fairly to be presumed, that they not only intended to confide with the healing committee, but to appeal to the public for a justification of the course, which they have pursued.

It is with reluctance, that I now come before the public, and with still greater reluctance, that I am necessitated to allude to or allude to on any thing said or done by the healing committee; that committee must cast the blame if any there is on the five condoling Trustees.

The host of literary and legal talent possessed by those five Trustees cannot deter me, who have no pretensions to either, from at least attempting to justify my own conduct to the public.

Although I have been often deceived, yet full faith is had that a majority, if not the whole of the Trustees, who have differed from me in regard to the acceptance of the healing committee's report, will not resort to sophistry or concealment, but if they have any further appeal to make to the public, will confine themselves to known truths and not attempt to fill by conjecture any link, be it ever so necessary, to complete or hold together the chain, with which they expect to bind others or sustain themselves.

Yours, &c. &c.

JOHN H. STEELE.

Dorchester, Dec. 8, 1830.

TO THE CITIZENS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Goodfellow—I trust you will excuse, if you do not justify the liberty now taken by an individual, almost, if not ex-

freely unknown to most of you, for calling your attention to the concerns of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane. A communication purporting to be a letter to the locating committee, signed by five of the Trustees of that Institution, requires, that I should lay before you a full account of the proceedings, which have led to the results complained of by those five Trustees. If as they say, they are "*disappointed and mortified*," I can assure you, that I am astonished at the course those gentlemen have seen fit to pursue. If they simply wished to assure that committee of their good will and continued confidence, no one could or would object; but is it obvious, that they had other motives? Do I accuse those gentlemen wrongly, when I say, that their main motive must have been to cast reproach on the Trustees, who differ from them, and voted against the acceptance of the locating committee's report,—For myself I have no wish to conceal any vote or act of mine; my course, whether right or wrong has been an open one, and although on more than one occasion I have stood alone or unsupported, my opinions were freely and indignantly given. That I have committed errors both of opinion and action in regard to the best mode of advancing the interests of the unfortunate Insane, I now well know—that I may commit more is not unlikely; but if I do, whenever satisfied of the fact, I shall unhesitatingly do, as I have heretofore done, retract my steps and endeavor to right the wrong. No factions cry of *pledges* shall prevent me, while in the station I now hold from endeavoring to ascertain the will or wishes of the public and be guided thereby.

The fees of offending others, even the highest of the land, shall not deter me from saying *any* to the report of any committee, let their respectability be what it may. But as the facts. On the 31st day of January last, the members of the corporation held their first annual meeting. A *Secretary* was chosen, and after various attempts to postpone the choice of Trustees, *until the Trustees on the part of the State were either chosen or nominated by the Governor*, eight Trustees on the part of the Corporation were chosen. At this meeting the first move was made to take from the Trustees the power of locating the Asylum; this move was resisted and for the time laid aside. The by-laws, which had been adopted at a previous meeting were referred to a committee for

revival, the meeting was then adjourned to the last of January, and at that meeting a new code of by-laws rejected, or framed, as to deprive the Trustees of all power and give to the *fifty dollar* subscribers the entire control, not only of the Trustees chosen by them, but of those appointed by the State. In fact, the entire board of Trustees were made mere tools of by a majority of the fifty dollar subscribers, who by clause or design chose to meet and give their orders. After the adoption of the by-laws a motion was made to choose a Secretary; who or for what purpose I know not. The Secretary chosen at the annual meeting had not declined; the only reason given in my hearing was, that "the corporation had adopted a new code of by-laws and therefore had a right to choose a new Secretary." A new Secretary was chosen. Then a Treasurer. Then came Mr. Haven's motion to appoint Doctors Woodward, Rockwell and Bell, a committee to locate the Asylum, without appeal. This motion was at once resisted, every argument that could be thought of, was urged against such an assumption of power, the glaring impolicy of one part alone, of equal contributors to one object, assuming the entire control of so important a matter as the location of the Asylum was urged in vain; nothing that was said or is now believed could have been said was for one moment willingly listened to by those, who had the power; even a motion to adjourn until the next morning with the renewed request, that the members would at least take one night to consider, before they adopted a course, which would devalue the State of all value in so important a matter, was at once voted down, not only by a majority of the members present, but by proxies, and some of those proxy votes given in a most insulting manner.

Those present at that meeting will not soon forget the number, 48, nor the tone and manner in which it was proclaimed. Finally a visiting committee was chosen consisting of the three gentlemen above named, to whom were added Messrs. Tuttle, Haven, and Pease, the latter as was said for the purpose of representing the State's interest. Mr. Pease being one of the State's Trustees. What mockery. What consummate nonsense, for any man or set of men to suppose, that the State's interest could or would be considered properly represented in having only one representative out of six.

Late at night this meeting closed. Mr. Conant, Mr. Pease

lee and myself retired to the American Hotel—were there conversing on the transactions of the meeting, when we were interrupted by the entrance of Messrs. Twitchell, Combs, Crosby, and Haven all of them Trustees, who at once proposed organizing the board of Trustees. This, after some conversation and inquiry was assented to, and on motion of Doct. Twitchell or Mr. Haven, (not certain which,) I was chosen chairman. This I had no doubt at the time, nor have I now, was done for the purpose (to use a phrase well understood) of “soft-soaping” the opposers of the measures, that had been taken by the corporators, particularly myself. Doct. Crosby was chosen Secretary of the board, which office he now holds *by virtue of the vote then taken*. A committee was chosen to procure the necessary funds from the Treasurer. Other business was transacted, not now necessary to relate. I will however here state that every meeting of the Trustees since held, has been held by authority derived from this meeting and from no other source. No provision was made in the by-laws of the corporation for calling the Trustees together, nor in my opinion was it necessary, the Trustees, being a separate body, had a right to call their own meeting; independent of the subscribers. Be that as it may, it was afterwards said, by those who contended that the Trustees could not convene until the corporation said so, that the omission in the by-laws was accidental—this may be so, but I have good reasons for believing, that the omission was designed and for the purpose of preventing the Trustees from having any thing to do with the location of the building. I may be mistaken but such is my belief. The Trustees however took no measures in regard to the location, but patiently if not contentedly waited from that time until the 16th of May, daily expecting to hear that the locating committee had performed the duty assigned them. Nothing being done, the season fast passing away, the Secretary was requested to call the Trustees together. On the 16th day of May six of the Trustees met. This is the meeting which Mr. Haven takes upon himself to call an illegal one, and on its delays, charges all the mistakes and delays that have taken place—even Mr. Combs suffers himself to say that “five only of the Trustees attended,” these says he “were Messrs Abbott, Low, Prudden, Smith and Combs,” and adds “as the meeting did not constitute a quorum the meeting was informal.” I do not believe that, Mr. Combs meant to misstate the facts, but in the

forgetfulness of the moment strangely forgot to insert the name of Isaac Hill. Mr. Hill was there, and I again repeat that the meeting consisted of six out of the seven Trustees, then in office, being an indubitated majority of the Board. The six Trustees unanimously agreed to take the location into their own hands, and go forward without delay. They unanimously agreed, and did under their hands recommend an amendment to the charter, which would, when made a law, effectually settle the controversy, between the corporation and Trustees. (The amendment then recommended is the same as that transmitted by the Governor to the Legislature and by them made a law in June last.) The six Trustees unanimously agreed and did appoint Doctors Woodward, Rockwell and Bell, a committee to recommend a suitable site for the location of the Asylum; they also appointed a committee consisting of John H. Steele, Gen. Joseph Lox and Samuel E. Coker, whose duty it should be to receive proposals from towns and individuals for the location and to examine every proposed site, collect facts relative to the price of lands, building materials &c. arrange and lay the same before the locating committee: all this was not only unanimously agreed upon, but a determination expressed that all would stand to and carry through the measures above stated. Were there any pledges here given? *Were they kept or not?* if not, what are the reasons for non-fulfilment?

Now let us pause, and endeavor to bring up an account of the State's *feud*, a theme on which much has been said, and much written. The then Governor has come in for his full share of abuse, for not transferring the State's funds to the corporations; that abuse commenced, before the corporations had chosen a single Trustee or even a *Treasurer*, to receive and take care of any of the funds belonging to the Institution; for be it remembered, that there was no Treasurer until the last of January, and no bond given by that Treasurer until February 1st, nor was there paid, or seemed to be paid as the charter requires from other sources than the grant, from the State, the required sum of \$25,000. If there was, where was the evidence that would have justified the Governor in causing the transfer of the State's property? I answer nowhere, within the control of the Asylum; all the evidence that ever had existed was scattered at the close of the annual meeting, on the 30th of January, to the four winds. Yet notwithstand-

ing all this, you will all remember the abuse cast on that time worn public servant, our late Governor, for not paying the State's funds unconditionally within the reach of the corporators. At the meeting of the Trustees above named, the Treasurer being present, he exhibited to them *for the first time* a statement of the amounts, which he had collected or secured to be paid to the Institution, amounting to near \$15,000. In addition to this he named several subscription papers believed to be good, of sufficient amount to make up the required \$15,000 or more. These facts were at the request of the Treasurer, and I believe of all the Trustees present, made known by Mr. Peaslee and myself to the Council then in session, and from our representations of the magnitude and determination of the Trustees to adhere to the course, which they had agreed upon. I believe the council were induced to advise the Governor to transfer the State's funds. That the Governor was right in withholding the State's funds up to that time, I have no doubt. If he had still withheld, until the Trustees had located or caused the location to be made under their sanction he would now in our opinion have received as many thanks for his firmness, as he has heretofore received censure for not complying with the unauthorized demands made upon him: unfortunately I among others was made a willing part of to clear obstructions, which lay between the credit expectants and the treasurer.

But to proceed, the committee chosen by the Trustees to collect facts, &c., preparatory to a location, immediately gave notice in the newspapers to that effect. Gen. Low and myself met at the time appointed. Mr. Cores was prevented, but wrote us, that he would join on our route, at the same time he suggested the propriety of giving a longer time, for the purpose of enabling towns that intended to make proposals, to hold legal meetings. This was at once complied with, and notice given accordingly. In the meantime a meeting of the corporators was holden in June. At that meeting the chairman of the locating committee chosen by the corporators on the last of January, (Dr. Twitchell,) was called upon for the reasons, why that duty had not been attended to. Whether Dr. Twitchell called on Mr. Haven or not, to answer for the committee, I know not. Mr. Haven answered in a well earned speech, as long or longer than this communication, without stating one solitary reason for

the delay. It is true, he gave as a reason for the committee's neglect "*that the Governor had not until a few days since transferred the State's funds,*" and this was the only reason if reason it can be called, that was given. No doubt, many like myself, will ask what the transfer of the State's funds, had to do with the committee's locating the Asylum. If it had anything to do with their duties or interfered in any manner with them as a locating committee, I cannot for the life of me, see how or where—surely even Mr. Haven would not agree, that the public should come to the conclusion that a plot was then laid to locate the Asylum, where the committee were conscious, that the public would not be satisfied, but would be so much dissatisfied, that they would at once call on the Governor or withhold or on the Legislature to interfere.

The evening previous to the last meeting of the corporation, Mr. Coles represented to several of the Trustees, that if the Trustees would agree to have the report of the locating committee final and conclusive, all difficulties would be at an end, the incorporators would be satisfied to have the Trustees proceed as they had proposed; to this proposition I as well as others assented, thereby placing ourselves, as soon appeared, in a trap, so as I believe on purpose to catch us, not contrived by Mr. Coles, for I cannot bring myself to believe, that Mr. Coles would knowingly have suffered himself to have aided in any such scheme. On the meeting of the incorporators next morning, it was become apparent, that we were not only caught in the jaws of the trap, but that we would be there held. A vigorous effort alone could again place us on the ground we had foolishly abandoned. That effort I attempted to make, but unfortunately was not able at the time to make others see, where we were about to be led. Doctors Woodward, Rockwell and Bell were again chosen by the meeting a locating committee with final powers, Messrs. Trinitell, Haven, Pringle, Steele, Low and Coles a committee to collect facts, &c. Not content with this the incorporators presented a vote that the *next* meeting of the Trustees should be held on that day at 7 o'clock, P. M.; and then adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock. Whether for the purpose of confirming or annulling whatever the Trustees saw fit to do, I know not. The Trustees having an adjourned meeting on that evening, met according to the adjourn-

ment, and proceed to business, without noticing the vote of the corporation. On motion, it was voted that Doctors Woodward, Rockwell, and Bell be a locating committee and that their report should be final and conclusive—the yeas and nays were taken on this question. Messrs. Abbott, Low, Quincy, Crohn and Peaslee assented with a reservation, that the power to locate was in the Trustees, not in the corporation. Messrs. Atherton, Twitchell and Haven assented with the reservation, that the power to locate was in the corporation, not with the Trustees. Mr. Cairns assented without making any reservation. Messrs. Hill and Copant were not present, and I declined voting and declared that I felt myself absolved from any agreement of the last evening.

I will here take the liberty to state, that there was no compromise on the part of the Trustees with the corporators, farther than may be inferred from the vote above named, and the adding Messrs. Twitchell, Haven and Peaslee to the committee previously chosen to collect facts, &c.

On the meeting of the corporators at 8 o'clock the proceedings of the Trustees were read by the Secretary, and on motion of Mr. Atherton after much sideway opposition, the obnoxious clauses in the by-laws named by the Governor in his message were repeated. And here let me add, took place the congratulations of which so much has been said, and which serves to make quite a conspicuous paragraph in the letter of condolence by the five Trustees. I and possibly others may have done the same, congratulated Mr. Atherton and that heartily on his success—a success that was unlooked for by me; for those very clauses, which Mr. Atherton so easily succeeded in repealing, were the same, that led to all previous difficulties, and which others, as well as myself had endeavored in vain to set aside. Was the repeal made in good faith? I supposed so at the time, but have long since been well satisfied, that the public have strong grounds to doubt. If it was, what meant the strenuous opposition in the Legislature, and out of it, to the passage of the amending act, which was, and is in fact nothing more than taking power out of the hands of the corporators, to remove those repealed clauses of the by-laws. I may be mistaken, hope that I am in believing, that if the Legislature could have been induced not to pass that amendment, all the opposition, that the Trustees could have made to an improper location, would have been un-

availing; the die would have been cast, and the State of New Hampshire compelled to witness the expenditure of their money on an institution notoriously intended for the benefit of the whole State, in a remote corner of her territory, where it could not, without the aid of extra thousands have been rendered useful.

It was my fortune to attend on the locating committee through the State. I had the utmost confidence in these gentlemen—the thought never entered my mind until their report was received, that the interest of the State was not safe in their hands. I was the more confirmed, if confidence was necessary, after hearing their voluntary remarks in regard to the essential requisites for an Asylum for the State. I had no thought that what was required at one place, would be entirely overlooked at another. It was almost if not always, a question asked by them, whenever they were shown a proposed site, where is the water to come from? It is indispensable, said they, that a plentiful supply of good soft water should be brought by an aqueduct into the upper story of the Hospital. The building should be built of fine durable materials, the partitions made of brick to prevent the transmission of noise, and to secure the plastering from being worn off by the nurses, which on wooden partitions would often be done in a single night, now as a greater security against fire. It was said that the Hospital should be located on a slight spot, so that the inmates could see the entire surroundings of the institution around, but at a sufficient distance from other buildings to prevent all sounds being heard and that disagreeable sights should be kept out of view. When at Concord a spot was shown nearly back of a graveyard; this was at once objected to on that account. From the above opinions of some of them, I perhaps should except Dr. Bell, as he had not joined the committee until after they had viewed the spot above alluded to, nor do I know what his views are. Although I was not very disappointed, but astonished at the committee's report, yet I had been called upon to accept or reject it, without knowing the opinions of others better able to judge than myself, or if I had found much division of opinion on the subject; well satisfied as I was, of the ruin which would befall the institution if located at Portsmouth or any other town remote from the centre of the State, yet singly and alone, I should not have ventured to vote against the report. Look

at the committee's report, read it over carefully, compare it with what was stated to be requisite, if not indispensable for a site on which to build a Hospital, and if you say those their decision so be it; I for one will endeavor to carry your wishes into effect or resign my trust. When the Trustees met on the 11th of September last, all the Trustees were present except Mr. Quincy. A motion was made to organize the Board according to the requirements of the amendatory act of last June. This was opposed by Mr. Atherton, on the plea, if I understood him correctly, that it was a subject on which the Trustees had no power to act, being a question for the corporation to decide, whether they *would or would not* accept of the amendment to the charter. This was, to say the least of it, strange doctrine. It looked very much like setting the powers of the corporation above the legislature. Not being a lawyer, I may be mistaken and it so, it would be well to cease granting charters for any purpose whatever. The question was taken—Yeas, Messrs. Hill, Conant, Low, Crosby, Peaslee and Steele. Nays, Messrs. Atherton, Tuttle, Abbott, Chase and Haven. It will be recollected that Messrs. Abbott and Chase were two of the six Trustees who recommended the passage of the very act, which they now voted against. Mr. Abbott gave no reason for his change of opinion. Mr. Chase was opposed, as he said, because he could get along well enough without it, after organizing. Mr. Atherton called for the reading of the leading committee's report. This was done; then Mr. Atherton moved the acceptance of the report, and the question was taken without one word of debate, and was rejected by a vote of 5 for, and six against—the five in favor were Messrs. Atherton, Tuttle, Abbott, Chase and Haven. Those against were Messrs. Hill, Conant, Low, Crosby, Peaslee and Steele. After the vote was declared a debate of several hours commenced. Much was said on both sides. The opponents to the report were urged to renounce their steps, to retract their pledges. The principal advocates for the acceptance of the report urged as reasons why Portsmouth should be the place, that it was the best fish market in the world, and that fish was the cheapest and best food for insane persons. He also said, that it was extremely fortunate that Portsmouth had been selected for the location of the Hospital, being in the neighborhood of *great society*, and abled "that no respectable physician

could be induced to take charge of the Hospital if located in Hingham or Pembroke." Fellow citizens, I do not trifle with, when I assure you that the above is the substance, if not the very words used on that occasion; in fact with the exception of the various shapes in which the \$25,000 offered by Portsmouth was urged on us, are all the arguments offered on that occasion.

Against the location, it was urged that although some of the opposers had agreed to abide by the decision, yet *pledged* themselves so to do, if gentlemen chose so to call it, yet they felt themselves not only justified but imperiously called upon as representatives, if not as principals, to oppose by every means in their power the destruction of an institution, which was, if properly located and well conducted, calculated to do much good. The \$25,000 offered by Portsmouth, we considered when taken in connection with the *extra* price of land, *extra* prices of building materials, of provisions, of fire wood, &c., &c., as a *better* offered for the destruction of the Asylum. We believe that these *extra* charges would in a few years *wholly* consume the whole \$25,000 and leave the institution to struggle on with many of these *extra* charges, amounting to at least from \$7 to \$40 dollars a year, without possessing one solitary advantage over the inmates of the State, unless we change the diet of the insane from what was the uniform practice of the leading committees themselves in their respective institutions. In regard to "*gentle society*," we contended that the sober business people of New Hampshire would learn with surprise, that they could not have a public institution, without it being placed under the superintendence of what is generally termed "*gentle society*."

In regard to the objection urged on us, not to reject the designs of so highly respectable and well qualified committee, it was admitted that it was with much reluctance that we felt ourselves called on not to doubt their integrity and their judgment. We believe that they had been misled by designing persons, or they never would have chosen a spot where no water could be had except by pumping; nor would they, if not improperly influenced, have recommended a great wooden building as "*every way calculated for a retreat*" and this wooden building standing on the brow of a hill some 22 or 24 feet above the ground on which one of the wings must of necessity be located,—nor would they as they have

stone in the third spot aimed, have chosen a site directly back of a grave yard, particularly after objecting, as they did at Concord, to a spot similarly situated, unless they were governed by the same motives concerning the dead, which was urged on us in regard to the living viz: that in Portsmouth it was the remains of the *greatest* dead, who were or would be deposited in the cemetery, while at Concord, it was a common grave-yard.

The five Trustees in their letter say "The subscription comprising members" "of the Corporation had been made with a view to the location of the Asylum." This sentence lets in a flood of light—it at once explains the reasons why the locating committee were so anxious to ascertain the amount subscribed by individuals in each town. There can now be no doubt of the improper influence which was brought to bear on them. But here these gentlemen stated the facts in regard to the subscriptions having "been made with a view to the location." I am bound to believe, that so far as they are concerned they did subscribe each \$5000 or more, merely for the purpose of controlling the location of the Asylum. For myself (and I have little doubt, I might add for the most if not all the other subscribers) I protest against any such inference. In fact I did not yet believe that the subscribers gave their money for benevolent purposes alone.

One word more and I have done. The confiding Trustees say "It happens that three of the Trustees reside in Concord; they speak of some central location by which they mean Concord and no other spot." Where did you learn this? did those three Trustees or either of them, tell you so? If not, from what source did you derive your information? Should it not have been from a source entitled to the utmost confidence to enable you to assert in so positive a manner, what many and I among the rest doubt, I can hardly bring myself to believe, that your assertion was made merely for the purpose of keeping up a prejudice against Concord. It has been my fortune to have considerable intercourse with not only the three Concord Trustees, but with many of the inhabitants concerning the Asylum, and I have no hesitation in assuring the public, that of all the persons who have put in claims for the location, the citizens of Concord have shown the least anxiety and have so far as my knowledge extends, kept more aloof

from attempting to influence the Trustees, or others, than any of them.

Yours truly,

JOHN H. STEELE.

Pittsboro', Dec. 9, 1839.

People and Patriot.

Dec. 26, 1839.

THE INSANE ASYLUM.

The editor of the *Kearse Sentinel* takes exception to a paragraph in our paper in which we said that the State inmates were procured "by a *fraud* and *cheat* practised upon the representatives of the people." This we vindicate, for it is susceptible of the clearest proof. In all the speeches and reports in the Legislature it was constantly declared as an inducement for the representatives to make the grant, the towns would have the right to send their pauper inmates to the Asylum, where they would be maintained at an expense not exceeding the cost of maintaining them at home; that our jails were to be supplied of all such as were confined there for offences committed when under the influence of liquor; that the whole unfortunate class were to be relieved from their dungeons and their chains, and to find a home at the Asylum. We appeal to every member of that Legislature if it was not upon such representations that they voted for the grant. The Institution was to be a *public institution*—a *State institution*, in the broadest sense. In this consisted the *fraud* and the *cheat*—for the managers were content that it is a *mere private affair*, with which the State has nothing to do. No town can send a pauper inmate there—the State cannot do so. The poor inmate may still groan in his chains and grope in his dungeon—for the Boarding Committee have decided that the Asylum is a *private institution*—the Trustees in favor of their report so decide. The State has in fact, no more rights at this Institution than it has at those of other States. The Trustees may receive or they may exclude whom they please, and upon their own terms; they may make the cost so high that none but the rich and the "pocketed" can avail themselves of its advantages. Can any one say there has been no fraud in all this?

Then in regard to the "packed committee," does any one doubt that the managers *knew* how they would decide before they were appointed? So well were they aware of the absurdity of their decision, that the committee *dares* not give a reason for it—or the managers *dares* not permit them (for they laid them entirely in their hands) to do so. They know there were no good reasons for their decision, and they did wisely not to offer any, since "No!" and "peaked society" were the only ones they could offer, for locating the institution is a corner, and declaring it a private concern.

We repeat, the next Legislature ought either to make the location and declare it a public institution, such as its advocates pronounced it should be, or repeal the charter, and order the fund back into the State Treasury.

X. II, People and Patriot Feb. 3, 1840.

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE INSANE ASYLUM.

A pretended copy of the vote of the town of Portsmouth, relative to the New Hampshire Asylum, for the benefit of the Insane, was published in the papers some months since; but we have never seen the entire vote, until the present time. We now publish it, that the public may see, what it amounts to, and whether it is a donation, or a mere relinquishment of the funds in their hands to the State, on condition that the State would apply it to the benefit of the Asylum and release the Town.

The vote is as follows:

Town-Clerk's office Portsmouth, Jan. 10, 1842.

At a legal town-meeting, duly notified and holden at Jefferson Hall this day, the following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted at said meeting, viz: Whereas the surplus monies of the U. S. Treasury deposited with the several States, under the Deposit Act, so-called, passed by Congress in 1836, was raised by contribution from the people in proportion to their consumption of foreign dutiable articles, in which way the poor became contributors in at least equal proportions with the rich—and whereas the town of Portsmouth is desirous to make such a disposition of that portion of said surplus deposited with said town for safe keeping, as shall near as may be secure to the poorer classes of the community a

full share of the benefits resulting from said deposits, and believing that this object may as well be attained by disposing of it for the benefit of the New Hampshire Asylum as in any way, it is therefore, *Resolved*, by the town of Portsmouth in legal meeting assembled for that purpose, that that portion of the surplus revenue of the United States deposited with the town of Portsmouth under the Act of the State Legislature, approved January 12th, 1837, be yearly relinquished for the benefit of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane, on the condition that the said Asylum shall be located in said town of Portsmouth—Provided the Law of the State Legislature of 1838 in amendment of said Act of Jan. 12th, 1837, shall be so far repealed or amended as to permit the transfer of said deposits to said Institution. *Resolved*, That our Representative in the Legislature be instructed and that the Senators of District No. One requested to endeavor to effect the passage of an act so far repealing or amending the aforesaid Act of 1838, as shall permit the transfer of said deposits of the surplus revenue to the N. H. Asylum for the Insane.

Ext. from the records.

A true copy, Attest,

JOHN BENNETT, Town Clerk.

Before considering the effect of this vote, we have some remarks to make as to the power of the town, at the time of holding their meeting, to act upon the subject, either by any direct or conditional donation, and we contend that, they had no such power in either mode.

It is clear, that the town, at the time of their meeting, had no more right to give these funds to the N. H. Asylum, than they had to give them for the benefit of the South Sea Exploring Expedition, or to the Sandwich Islands, or to any other, or for some Whaling Expedition, or other causes, good, bad or indifferent. They had no right to call the town together to consider these subjects, which were totally beyond its powers as a corporation—much less, had they a right, when having no power upon the subject, to bind the citizens of the town by a conditional donation, to take effect if they should subsequently have the power all actions granted to them.

Nothing can be plainer, than that the town had no authority to act binding its citizens until the power was given them. Whatever may have been the terms of the vote—its

substance and in legal effect, it could in no manner be any thing more than a request of a permission from the Legislature to give this fund for the benefit of the Asylum, provided the town, when the permission was granted should elect to do.

When the power is granted, then the citizens can be called upon to act and can act, and not before. If a meeting is then called to act upon the subject, the citizens who stay away, stay at their peril; the town can then bind them by their proceedings. All votes upon the subject or donations previous to this time are merely void acts. The farmers and mechanics can not be called away from their farms and shops, and the seamen from their fisheries to vote on mere *speculative propositions*, and no set of men can vote away the money of the citizens of any town in this mode.

It is true enough for the citizens generally to come out, when there is power for them to act. The loungers about change and speculators and philanthropists who are anxious for money to control as a charity in their own pockets, can attend a fancy town meeting at any time, but they cannot take away the money of the working citizens in this way. They may tell what the town would do, had it the power, or they may vote conditionally to their hearts' content, but they never can bind the citizens, except by a deliberate vote and action of the town *after such power is granted*.

Is there any citizen of Portsmouth that doubts this? Is there any honest man, that can gloss over it on the ground of common justice, or honesty or sound principles of law or common sense? We submit these questions to the answer of any unbiassed individual.

We intended to have shown from the vote of the town, that no donation had been made by the town, even had the town power to act upon the subject. But the vote speaks clearly for itself. It is merely that the town "relinquish the deposits for the benefit of the Asylum," and convey it to the *Agglom.* the town of course being absolved from their liability to the State, and that the act be so far amended as to permit the transfer: after it had been relinquished as above, that is relinquished to the State—to permit the transfer of the deposits by the State or on account of the State—*with or to the Asylum*.

Such is the nature of this *novatio*. It is a mere proposi-

tion that if the State will release the town from its liability for this money, and will give the money as a State to the Asylum, the town will relinquish their claim to it. But has the State passed any such vote? An examination of the act of the last Legislature upon this subject will show that the State has passed no such vote. The State is liable to the general government for this money, and will never consent to release any town in order that they may make a donation of any kind.

The matter stands then, just where it did. The proposition made by the town of Portsmouth was not accepted by the Legislature; of course nothing was done, even had the town power at that time to bind its citizens by such a proposition, which we have shown it had not.

We deny therefore, that the town of Portsmouth, as a town has ever given one farthing for the benefit of the N. H. Asylum, or that it has ever acted upon the subject of a meeting of its citizens when they were by law legally qualified to act.

No meeting has been called for this purpose, none they have been empowered to set upon it. The N. H. Asylum has not the least pretence of a claim to this money. It is still the undoubted and inalienable right and property of the citizens of Portsmouth, to be disposed of according to their sovereign will and pleasure under the Statutes regulating its deposit with that town.

Portsmouth Feb. 7, 1840.

COO. MATTHEW:

Sir,—I have received a newspaper (the Portsmouth Journal dated Jan. 25, 1840,) containing what purports to be an official account of the proceedings of the Corporation of the New Hampshire Asylum for the insane, held at Portsmouth, Jan. 8, 1840.

Before answering the call made on me, not only as one of the Trustees of that institution, but as President of the board of Trustees, I trust you will permit to ask through your relations of some one or more of the main matters in that meeting a few questions.

Gentlemen, do you claim the right as a corporation under the charter granted by the Legislature in 1828, and its amend-

ment in 1833), to *instruct* the Trustees in relation to the location of the Asylum?

Do you claim for the Corporation under the *entire* charter the right to choose a Treasurer for the Asylum? Or did you choose a Treasurer simply for the purpose of taking charge of the Portsmouth "donation" (as you are pleased to call their conditional offer) which it seems you have voted to accept? Under the *entire* charter as a Corporation, do you claim the power or right to locate? Do you claim the right as a Corporation to accept or reject any part of the charter granted by the State, and still continue to act as Corporation under such part as you may choose to retain?

Your early attention to the above questions is earnestly requested, and on your answer will depend any future action, not only as an individual Trustee, but as President of the Board. Anonymous or evasive answers will be unheeded by

JOHN H. STEELE.

People and Patriot, Feb. 17, 1840.

From the Granite State Democrat.

ASYLUM.

Portsmouth, N. H. 2nd. April, 1840.

To the Editor of G. S. Democrat.

DEAR SIR: At the last town meeting in this place, the resolution which was adopted by the town in June last, appropriating the Surplus Revenue of the United States, which has been deposited with said town, was reconsidered. This has been the cause, not only of some excitement, but of some misrepresentations against itself which need correction. The reflections which I have had upon this subject have convinced me that the whole difficulty has had its origin in the wide difference which exists between warm hearted philanthropy, and the cool coldness of the human mind. It was a disinterested love of mankind, which prompted the Legislature of this State to form a Corporation for the purpose of establishing an Asylum for the Insane and which induced sundry humane and benevolent individuals to make liberal donations, with the State, for the accomplishment of this desirable object.

And there is no doubt resting upon my mind, that the same excited spirit which prompted the establishment of the Asylum would also have found a central location therefor, had it not have been for the prevailing disposition which caused it to be set up at public auction.

The manner this benevolent enterprise was turned into a House of merchandise, the legal voters of the town of Portsmouth were summoned together to make a bid for its location. At this meeting, which was held at Jefferson Hall on the tenth of June last past, a proposition was made to appropriate the Surplus Revenue above mentioned to the Asylum for the Insane upon condition it should be located in this town.

The sum which the town had on deposit amounted to twenty three thousand dollars, and the question was whether that sum should be bid for the sake of having said institution located within our own jurisdiction. Here was the first agency which I had in this business. On this occasion, I thought it my duty to enter my protest against a scheme, which I then thought and which I still think, was both unjust and oppressive.

Entertaining this belief, I moved an indefinite postponement of the whole subject.—This motion I sustained, as well as I was able upon two grounds. First, that the town had not the ability to make such a sacrifice—that the town debt already amounted to almost *fifty thousand dollars*, which of itself was a very heavy burden for a town containing only nine thousand inhabitants. Secondly, that the meeting was much smaller than we had at the annual town meeting in the month of March. And as the subject was of an extraordinary nature it would seem to be but just and proper that it should be postponed until the next annual meeting—that out of more than sixteen hundred legal voters, there were not then present more than three or four hundred. Not one fourth of the whole number, and not more than one third which usually attended the annual meeting in the month of March.

I then stated, postpone this subject until the next annual town meeting that the citizens generally, may have an opportunity to attend, and if they then voted to appropriate this money to the Asylum for the Insane, I would not inter a murmur. I also declared at the same time, that I did not believe that such an appropriation could be made at a full meeting, and that a majority of the people would vote to dis-

tribute the money per capita. I contended as the money had been wrongfully taken from the United States Treasury, and as there was no probability that it would again be returned to the place from whence it had been taken, that a distribution according to the number of inhabitants, was the most just and equitable distribution that could be made of it. The only reply made to the argument for an indefinite postponement was, that there was a regular town meeting, duly notified and warned, and if the people did not choose to attend it was their own fault, for hundreds of our people were then absent at work in our neighboring towns and cities, or were riding upon the mountain wave or engaged in the fisheries. I thought therefore that it would be extremely unjust to act upon such an important measure behind their backs. All however, was unavailing. The *thirty pieces of silver* must not only be given to secure the location of that Institution in this town, but they must be given at that time. The motion on the indefinite postponement was then put by the Hon. Mr. Drown, who presided on that occasion, when on a decision of the house, it appeared that there were about one hundred and thirty in favor, and about one hundred and sixty against it. Consequently it did prevail. The main question was then put on the adoption of the resolutions, and decided in the affirmative.

The above is, in my belief, a true history of the proceedings of the town, at the time above mentioned. From that time till the present moment, my opinion has been, that could the united voice of the town be obtained that that voice would be in accord with the vote which was there passed. This fact has been verified.—That vote has been repeated, annulled and rendered void and of no effect. This was not done at so full a meeting as was desirable, but it was done by a very decided vote of those who were present. The vote on the motion for an indefinite postponement stood two-hundred and thirty-five in favor and two-hundred and thirty-nine against. The motion then was on the adoption of the resolutions which had been offered by myself and decided by a hard vote, according to my belief of two to one. The citizens of the town had then been kept together ten hours, and many of the farmers who lived at a distance, had previous to this time left the meeting, but who would, had they been present, as it is believed, voted in favor of those resolutions. In consequence of the part which I have thought it to be my duty to take

in this affair, it has made me the object of many a bitter epithet. Some have been so uncharitable as to assert that I had lost all interest for the welfare of my own town. But this is a great mistake. I have now been a permanent resident in this town for almost twenty-four years, and I can truly say that it always has been, and still is my desire to do every thing in my power to promote the prosperity and happiness of this people. As one individual, I should very well like to see this Institution erected in this place, if we could have it without purchase. But we are not able to make such a purchase.

Some have also so far departed from the truth, as to assert that the above mentioned subject had again been brought before the town by me in pursuance of an order issued by Gov. Hill and the Concord "faction" as they please to term it. No man unless he wishes to pollute his lips with falsehood can make such an assertion. Whenever I have had occasion to speak of this subject to Gov. Hill or any other gentlemen, I have uniformly given the same history of the transaction as above stated. When that gentleman was in town last autumn, I told him as I have my own townsmen and others, that I did not believe that the town at a full meeting would consent to appropriate the surplus revenue to the asylum for the insane. This Gov. Hill had an undoubted right to repeat to the board of trustees, or anywhere else, and quote me as the authority for so doing. He had a right also to interfract that statement, that the inhabitants of Portsmouth did not wish to have the Hospital located in this place. I may have stated the same thing in substance, that is, that I did not believe that the inhabitants of this town would consent to give twenty-three thousand dollars to have that institution located here. This I still believe. But neither Gov. Hill, nor any other gentlemen of Concord, ever requested me to bring this subject again before the town. This request came from some other townsmen, and from them alone. From that the Concord "faction" as it is called, is entirely innocent.

It has also been said that my intention was to distribute the money according to the rateable polls.—This assertion has been made for the purpose, probably, of disaffecting some of those who were in favor of a distribution. This is a mistake. I never had any such intention, but on the contrary, my intention has been to effect a distribution per capita. In the results

tion as originally drawn, the expression according to the polls. Not taxable polls, but polls, the true signification of which is, in the connection in which the word was used, a register of heads, that is of persons. This would include every man, woman and child in town. Such a distribution ought first to be made, and then if the people, to whom the money belongs, have a mind to give it to the Hospital or to any other charitable object, they have an undoubted right to do so.

So friendly am I to the interests of Portsmouth, that had I the ability, I would build an Asylum for the Insane poor of this town myself. So would I, were I able to do so, build one for the Insane poor of the State of New Hampshire, but in that case, I should be morally bound to locate it where it would best accommodate the greatest number. I could not locate it here, because it might be of some pecuniary benefit to my own town with any more propriety than I could defraud my neighbor to increase my own wealth. The principal argument which has been adduced in support of this location is founded upon dollars and cents. And in this scramble for money, those who are suffering under the miseries of insanity, are lost sight of. This is to be regretted, and if I have done any thing towards overturning the tables of the money changers, and of establishing more correct and righteous views upon this subject, I shall feel very thankful. With great respect.

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL CUSHMAN.

People and Patriot, April 15, 1848.

ASYLUM

To the Editor of the Granite State Democrat.

DEAR SIR:

Since writing you, the other day, upon the subject of the Asylum for the Insane, one of the members of the corporation, a gentleman who has taken a very active part in the establishment of that Institution, and one who is well acquainted with all the facts in the case, has openly and publicly con-

passed that "*the Locating Committee based their report on the Grant made by the town of Portsmouth.*" Here is an admission from one who knows the fact, that it was not the interest of the place which induced the locating committee to give the Hospital to the town of Portsmouth, but the generous action led unto by the town in June last.

After the State of New Hampshire had established this benevolent Institution, and had given *fifteen thousand dollars* of the people's money to assist in carrying forward such a beneficial work, is it right, is it honest, is it just, to seek any other than a central location which would best accommodate a majority of that people? It appears to me that this would be the natural dictate of every honest mind and heart.

That man must have a hard heart and a disordered mind who would do otherwise.—One would naturally suppose that the man who could not see the injustice of departing from such a proposition must have a mind wonderfully obscured from gold dust, or entirely eclipsed by a hard and selfish heart.

Upon the same principle the location might have been made at Colebrook, or some other town in the other extreme end of the State.

Suppose the town of Colebrook had outbid the Portsmouth, and offered thirty thousand dollars upon condition the Hospital be located therein, what would have been said had the locating committee *based their report upon the grant made by that town?*

Would there not, in that case, have been our general outcry of injustice and oppression? Would it not have said that the donation made by the State had been sacrificed, and that the rights of the people were set at naught or trampled under foot?

In such an event would not every man have exclaimed, in the most malignant manner, that the corner stone of an edifice, based upon such a *Grant* would be laid in bribery and corruption?

Let every man answer for himself. Now if money is to be the sole foundation upon which the locating committee are to "*base their report,*" upon the above supposition, the location would have been in Colebrook instead of Portsmouth. And why not? That town is situated on the flowing waters of the Connecticut river, and it is no further from Poste-

mouth to Colebrook than from thence to this place. It is true that the southern part of the State is rather more populous than the northern, and upon the money "Gouls" this is the only argument why Portsmouth should be preferred to Colebrook.

Let the Hospital be located in this town, and every mile which an individual is thereby compelled to travel further than he would have done if the *Groat* of the town had not been made, together with all the time and money therein expended will be a direct tax imposed upon such individuals by the "*Groat*" made by the town of Portsmouth—This truth no one can deny. A truth which cannot be very flattering to the feelings of any one who rightly estimates the correct doctrine of equal rights and privileges.

I commiserate the situation of those unfortunate fellow beings, who have been deprived of their reason, as much as any man living and will go as far as him, who will go furthest, to better their situation, according to my ability, provided it be done without violating the rights of others.

Let even limited justice be done to all men. This is a claim which all have a right to make. The high and the low, the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned, as it respects natural rights, stand upon a level. This is not only a Democratic doctrine, but is also a doctrine inculcated by Him, in whose service every man should find his highest happiness.

Let the above rule of conduct be adopted, and the lips of those who advocate the money basis of the above mentioned report, would be hushed forever.

I should like to unite with my friends and fellow citizens in effecting the location of the Hospital in the town of Portsmouth, if it could be done without infringing upon the rights of others. But I will not knowingly strive to obtain any personal advantage at the expense of any portion of my fellow citizens, and what I cannot in conscience do for myself I ought not to do for the town in which I reside.

Yours respectfully,

SAMUEL CUSHMAN.

Portsmouth, April 7th, 1840.

Patriot, April 29, 1840.

To the Trustees of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane.

Gentlemen:—It is now more than twelve months since the fund of \$25,000 was subscribed for the purpose of purchasing the necessary lands and erecting and furnishing the necessary buildings for an Insane Hospital.

It is also well known that said Hospital when erected was intended mainly for the benefit of the poor and the criminal Insane of the whole State. On this ground, and this alone, was its erection advocated both in the newspapers of the day and in public meetings held expressly for that purpose.—It is also well known that in an evil hour a contest arose between the private corporations and the Trustees in regard to the power of location.

It is equally well known that through distrust on the one part and want of confidence on the other, this subject was monotonously submitted to men who did not and from the nature of the case could not understand the wants or local situation of the State as well as the Trustees themselves. Although we all know the result, perhaps none of us know all the reasons which led to it. Be that as it may, we all know the unfortunate situation in which our own thoughtlessness in attempting to have others do that which it was our duty to have done ourselves, has placed this noble charity. And I now appeal to each one of you to say whether the poor suffering Insane throughout the State are to be deprived of the means of restoration merely because a committee have reported in favor of a location which it is manifest does not relieve the State or satisfy the reasonable expectations of the public. Are we to sacrifice the general good of the whole to the local interests of a part, merely for fear that we may wound the feelings of the locating committee? I trust not. Let us then agree to do that which I am confident a large majority of the Trustees would have done, had this question been settled by them without improper interference from abroad.—Namely, agree on some central spot and forthwith proceed to erect the necessary buildings, &c. By a central spot I do not mean Concord or any other particular town, but some within 10 or 12 miles of the capital. Are you ready to name or agree upon a spot within this distance of the State House? If you are I am ready and willing to join with any six of the Trustees and proceed accordingly to locate and erect the necessary buildings, &c. Your answers either by letter direct to myself or

through the public papers will meet with prompt attention by

JOHN H. STEELE.

Petersborough, April 19, 1840.

Patriot, April 20, 1840.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

We have barely space to say, that the act, which has passed the Legislature relating to the Asylum, provides that whenever the fund appropriated by the State, together with such donations as shall be left or hereafter may be made, shall amount to Forty Thousand Dollars, or at any previous time, the legislature shall direct, the Trustees shall proceed to establish a Hospital. The amount given by the State is now valued at Twenty Thousand Dollars, we hope that of the Eighteen or Nineteen Thousand dollars with the interest subscribed, but a small part of it, if any, will be withdrawn, and believe and in fact know, that other donations to a considerable amount will be made. — In addition, this institution will eventually be entitled to the Legacy of Mrs. Fisk, of Keene, amounting to about Ten Thousand Dollars, and besides, we think, that when the facts required to be furnished by the act, shall be communicated by the Trustees, the Legislature will be convinced that so large a sum as Forty Thousand Dollars will not be necessary to obtain the necessary land, erect and furnish the necessary buildings, on as large a scale as is desirable for the commencement. The town in which the institution is located must make a liberal donation for the benefit conferred. If we should be disappointed in any of the above particulars, the State has stock still left in the New Hampshire Bank worth Twenty or Thirteen Thousand Dollars: and all the friends of this benevolent object may feel confident, our present Legislature, unless we mistake the character of its members entirely, will take such measures this fall as to secure the establishment of an Asylum for the criminal and pauper as well as other insane on a firm and broad basis.

Communicated.

N. H. Patriot, June 27, 1840.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the above Asylum,

held in this town on the 29th ult., a committee was appointed to procure the statistical information required by the Legislature of last June, to be transmitted to them at the November session.

Among other facts to be communicated, is the amount of funds which may with certainty be relied on—the expense of a suitable farm and of erecting and furnishing the necessary buildings for the accommodation of 120 patients, together with the annual average cost, which the patients themselves, their friends, or the towns that might desire to send their pauper insane, would be at; allowing that the whole expense of supporting, or, in other words, of curing and saving from wretchedness those who receive its benefits, was defrayed by them, or those bound to support them, and not a dollar be drawn from the State Treasury, other than that already appropriated for the first outlay.

This information is needed for the purpose of deciding whether the sum already bestowed by the State, together with such sums as shall be left by the donors, with such sums as shall be given to the town in which it may be located, would be amply sufficient to get everything in readiness for the reception of patients, and whether the average expense, graduating it according to the sums necessary to meet the whole expenditure of the institution, or patients, would be so cheap, that the insane, or their friends, or the towns legally liable for their support would gladly avail themselves of its advantages.

So many institutions of a similar kind have there been erected in the neighbouring States—so long have they been in operation, and so clearly have they demonstrated that it is for the pecuniary interest of the towns and counties liable for the support of pauper and criminal insane, to send them there for recovery, and thus be released from a burden, which otherwise would have continued for years, and in all probability during the life of the individual, and so crowded are these hospitals at the present time, that it can be relied on almost a mathematical certainty, not only the precise sum necessary for obtaining the land and buildings, the price per week of board, but also whether an institution accommodating 120 insane, will be constantly full on the voluntary application of towns and individuals, allowing they were required to pay their proportional share of the whole expense for carrying on the same.

If it should turn out, that the sums set apart for the buildings, etc., will be beyond all question adequate for that purpose, and if it should turn out, that the insane can be

supported at the Asylum at an expense not exceeding \$2500 per week, and probably not exceeding \$1.00 exclusive of clothing — If it should turn out, from the various accounts, that the present system of supporting the pauper and transient, as well as other means, viz., under the present ward system, even more per week than it would be at an Asylum, where the method means the early recovery could be adopted, although the State should not incur appropriate another dollar, beyond what it has already expended. If it should turn out that so numerous are the insane, and so full are the Hospitals in other States, that it is utterly impossible for them to be put a safe way of recovery, even at a far greater expense than it would be, if we had a State Institution then may we expect that a cautious and enlightened Legislature, will not be less sensible that such measures as our primary interest, as far from justice and more expeditious, as regard to the immediate forwarding of this benighted object. We could hardly meet, with many others, that before another year rolls over the woman's head, the agonizing madness which has so long tormented through her brain not be devoted, through the sympathetic attentions of the *New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane*.

N. H. Patriot, 189, 52, 1840.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, Dec. 10, 1840.

MR. STANLEY, from the select committee, to whom was referred an order of the Legislature through a petition to the establishment of an Asylum for the Insane, reported a bill for Insane and authorized the erection of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane.

The bill provides for the location of the Asylum within the limits of the town of Exeter, is read as follows: \$10000 and transfer the sum of 20,000 to the Treasurer of said Asylum, currently to be used and down, towards the erection of said Asylum. The bill was read twice and on motion of Mr. SAWYER, of Exeter laid on the table.

N. H. Patriot, Dec. 11, 1840.

THE N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

A bill has been passed by the Legislature, locating this Institution in Concord and authorizing the Trustees to go on, make purchases and erect the necessary building within the limits of Concord. It will without doubt be approved by the Governor and become a law. We are informed, that a meeting of the Trustees has been notified to be held here on Saturday next, for the purpose of taking immediate and efficient measures to ensure the completion of the Asylum at the earliest possible day, by fixing upon a farm, making purchases of materials and getting all things in readiness to commence the buildings in the spring, as soon as the weather will permit. The funds on hand are amply sufficient to build an institution, and prepare it for the reception of 120 patients.

The public and especially the friends and relatives of the unfortunate insane, may now rest assured, that this great and benevolent undertaking will be accomplished without unnecessary delay.

N. H. Patriot, Dec. 18, 1840.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE

The Trustees at their recent meeting fixed upon a location for this Institution. It is the Gale place, so called, and is situated on the Hopkinton Road, south-west of the State House, and about a third of a mile from Main street. The position is elevated and commands an extensive and pleasant view of the village, of the river and of the country about. The farm for the Asylum will contain about 100 acres of land.

Messrs. Conant and Pender were appointed a Committee to superintend the erection of the building and have already invited proposals for the furnishing or manufacture of bricks, as will be seen by an advertisement in this paper.

N. H. Patriot, Jan. 29, 1841.

NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

The location of the Hospital is about half a mile southwest of the State House at Concord, on a beautiful eminence which commands a view of Concord, Pembroke, Bow, Hopkinton, Boscaawen, Canterbury and London. The walls of the building are new up, and the roof slated. The form of the building on the ground is somewhat like the following diagram:

(Here follows a diagram.)

It is three stories high, each wing is about 120 feet in length, and the central house about 40 feet. There are sixty rooms in each wing, of about 12 feet square. The central house is for the hall officers' rooms and the superintendent's family. The windows in the wings are all protected by cast iron grillings in imitation of sashes. It will probably be completed early next year.

Notwithstanding our preference for a location in our own neighborhood, yet we cannot but rejoice that an Asylum for the Insane has been erected in our State, and that so fine a location has been found. The labors of our friends in this cause of humanity have been successful, and their exertions will doubtless call down the blessings of many who will be relieved from a thralldom worse than death when permanently settled on the human mind.

Portsmouth Journal.

N. H. Patriot, Nov. 11, 1841.

THE N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

In an article which appears in Hill's *N. H. Patriot* of the 2d inst. upon the location and erection of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, a compliment is paid to the "building committee, and especially to Messrs. Count and Stevens." No one doubts that both these gentlemen have done their duty, that Mr. Count has rendered invaluable services during the last summer in the superintendence of the works, and for such deserves the hearty thanks of

the community), but whether the writer of that article be his "opponent,"—indicated by NAUGHT GUN, PUNISH, & BURN, &c.

From the record that the project of an Insane Asylum was started, Gen. Peabody was prominent, as a member of the House of Representatives, and as a citizen of the State, in urging the cause on the legislative floor of the community before the Legislature of the State, and in treatment elsewhere; and the building which has this season been completed stands as a monument of his willing energies and his love for good work. He was not alone in urging the adoption of the measure by the Legislature, but in no way does the State owe more directly the removal of the burdening this season, in the manner it has been removed, than to him. This is much, but as to justice to the efforts of Gen. Peabody, as it was explained by his friends that the adoption of his name in the article referred to, did him much injustice.

S. H. Peabody, Nov. 11, 1841

S. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The Trustees of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane under their charter in the North Church in Concord, for a donation of \$11.75 each to William Peabody, Esq., of Dover, for a donation of \$10.00 each, they have been notified by their Treasurer, Gen. Joseph Linn.

The Board from the commencement of the erection of the present building have been vigilant, such was the conviction of their position they address the committee of the Incorporated Society to extend its efforts of this subject, as all citizens are interested with for a few years at least to be maintained, and the present board for the purpose to secure right from the very first, in order to secure the expense of the Asylum, as high as to prevent some from being more comfortable and willing to share right minds, who are now obliged to contribute. "What is the best the Union Asylum with 1841, towards the end of the year?"

The Asylum will probably be opened for the reception of patients in September or October next.

The farm consists of about 120 acres. A neat, spacious and airy building is being erected on the most approved plan, in the most substantial manner, on a spot elevated and salubrious, capable of being tastefully laid out in garden, shrubbery, park and orchard, commanding a delightful view of the Capital of the State, as well as an extensive prospect of the Merrimack river, and the fertile hills and valleys with which it is surrounded. It will soon be occupied by those, whose flesh is now galled by the chains of the cold, filthy prison and dungeon, and their midnight shrieks, their unceasing howls, their horrid oaths will soon be changed to accents of gratitude to the Legislature and the benevolent individuals who have assisted in providing them such a retreat. An insane person in the Worcester Asylum, soon after it was opened, when asked if he preferred his present to his previous condition, replied, with the most emphatic utterance and gesture, "O, that was Hell, but this is Heaven!"

When the community shall have witnessed the amazing recoveries of those, whose friends had given them up as past all hope—the unaltered condition of those who had previously been suffering all that it was possible for human beings to suffer—when the State shall have become from experience fully satisfied that everything has been managed in a judicious manner, and on principles of the strictest economy, there can be no doubt but the Institution will be generously sustained.

At the present time and at its opening, however, it will need the sympathies and kind offices of its friends more than at any other period, and the Trustees are cheered with the hope and belief, that the above entire voluntary donations will not be the only ones which they shall have occasion to acknowledge previous to the reception of patients—for they expect, through the charities of the humane to be able to commence the Institution at a considerable lower rate of board, for the pauper insane especially, than any other Asylum. May the above donations prove a nucleus around which shall gather a fund, that shall enable the Asylum to extend its benefits to every poverty-stricken insane soul and daughter of New Hampshire.

For the Board of Trustees.

C. H. PEASLEE, *Secretary.*
N. H. Patriot, Dec. 20, 1845.

N. H. Asylum for the Insane.

We are informed that the services of Dr. George Chandler who has been for some time connected with the Worcester Asylum for the Insane, has been secured as Physician and Superintendent of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane at an annual salary of \$5000. Dr. Chandler is eminently qualified for the important station. The superintendent of the Worcester Institution speaks of him in his report, as essential to the well being of that institution. It is expected to open our institution for patients about September next.

N. H. Patriot, Nov. 20, 1842.

The Trustees of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane, would gratefully acknowledge their obligations to the United Societies of Shakers at Canterbury and Enfield, for their liberal donation of five hundred dollars in aid of the objects of the Institution, as appears by the following correspondence.

For the Board of Trustees,

C. H. PEASLEE, Secretary.

Concord, April 12, 1842.

Concord, February 8th, 1842.

To the Society of Shakers in Canterbury:

The Trustees of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, feel it to be a duty which they owe to that unfortunate class of our fellow citizens, who are now dragging out a wretched existence in chains, darkness, filth and misery, and who cannot speak for themselves, to appeal to you for aid in alleviating the immense mass of unrelieved misery, which now and for a long time has existed in this State for the want of an Asylum. We are aware, that you support your own helpless, aged and sick people, and that you neither need or ask any assistance of a pecuniary nature from others. We rejoice, that you and they are so fortunately situated, and grieve that this world is the theatre of so many heart rending scenes, one of the saddest of which, is that occasioned by insanity. But notwithstanding your unking no claims upon others, and your comparatively prosperous condition, we know from your liberality, when solicited to far a distance on account of losses by

fire and on other occasions, that your philanthropy is of a more extensive, and nobler character, than that which would be limited to one's own family, or be merely self, and that you will not therefore deem this application intrusive.

It seems to us, that the benevolent can find no object more worthy of assistance than Hospitals for the Insane, and thereby causing the wretched in body and mind to be taken from poor houses and prisons, and placed in circumstances of comfort, and where the proper medical means can be used for their recovery, and we confidently hope and believe, that should you be satisfied, on inquiry, that the Institution thus far has been managed economically and without sinister motives, and that it probably will be so in future, you will assist us in a manner both worthy of the object and the givers.

At no time will the Asylum probably need assistance so much as at the present time, or in the course of the coming summer, for we believe that when its benefits shall have been seen and felt, charity will flow in upon it liberally as the rain from the Heavens, and no personal application will be necessary to sustain it.

Hoping that in the day of need, in the day of small things, you will come up to its aid, we subscribe ourselves,

Very respectfully,

Your Friends,

The Trustees of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane.

By C. H. PEASLEE, Secretary.

N. H. Patriot, April 14, 1842.

REPLY.

To the Trustees of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane.

Your application, soliciting aid from our Society, in behalf of the Insane has been received and taken into consideration.

We are disposed to assist in alleviating, to the extent of our means and ability, those who are so unfortunate as to be in a state of insanity. We are aware that much wretch-

calness, misery, distress, and even abuse exist among this class, and more particularly among the indigent.

We anticipate no benefit whatever, either directly or indirectly, by the establishment of an Insane Hospital, as we probably never should avail ourselves of the privilege of placing any of the members of our society there, believing we are so situated, that we could provide for, and take care of such of our members as might be deprived of their reason, within the limits of the Society, quite as well as any others.

We are inclined to believe, however, that an Asylum for the Insane, established in behalf of that unfortunate class, for the poor as well as the rich, free from party spirit, sectarianism, or from any selfish purpose of aggrandizement whatever, would be in reality a valuable Institution, and would be considered by all classes as an object worthy of their charity and benevolence. We hope and trust the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane will be such an Institution.

We therefore subscribe Five hundred dollars, or Five shares in the Mechanics' Bank, Concord; Three hundred in behalf of the Society at Canterbury, and Two hundred in behalf of the Society at Enfield, which you will please receive and appropriate according to your discretion.

It is our wish and desire, however, that this amount be received, and considered as given wholly for the benefit and in behalf of the indigent Insane, those who have no means of placing and supporting themselves in such an institution.

In behalf of the United Societies at Canterbury and Enfield.

With perfect respect and esteem,

Your Friends,

FRANCIS WINKLEY,	}	<i>Treasurer of the Society, Canterbury.</i>
WILLIAM WILLARD,		
OTIS HOLBROOK,	}	<i>Treasurer of the Society, Enfield.</i>
CALDER M. DYER.		

April 18, 1842.

N. H. Patriot, April 14, 1842.

N. H. LEGISLATURE.

Thursday, June 23, 1842.

The resolution appropriating \$9000 for the building and furnishing the N. H. Asylum for the Insane, was read a second time.

On motion of Mr. Giddes, the resolution was laid upon the table and made the special order of the day at 5 o'clock this afternoon.

Afternoon.

On motion of Mr. Giddes, the resolution making an appropriation for the Insane Asylum, was taken up.

Mr. Giddes moved to amend the resolution by striking out all after the enacting clause, and insert a clause authorizing the Governor to draw to the amount of \$4000 for the purpose of building and furnishing the Insane Asylum, which was adopted.

Mr. Foss moved, that the resolution be indefinitely postponed, and the yeas and nays being demanded, it was decided in the negative—yeas 26, nays 162.

The resolution was then read a third time and passed.

N. H. Patriot, June 30, 1842.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

That the Governor be authorized and directed to draw his warrant upon the Treasurer of this State for such sum or sums of money as may be necessary to complete the building now erected as an Asylum for the Insane in New Hampshire, and to furnish the same for the reception of patients, not exceeding in the whole four thousand dollars, and the Treasurer is authorized to pay said sum or sums upon such warrant to the Treasurer of said Asylum for the purposes aforesaid.

*Approved, June 24, 1842.**N. H. Patriot, July 7, 1842.*

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS,

OF THE N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

June Session, 1842.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Under the Act of the Legislature approved July 2, 1838, the Governor and Council, the President of the Senate and Council, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the time being, were constituted a "Board of Visitors of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane," and it is made their duty to visit and inspect the Asylum as often as may be necessary, to see that the design of the Institution is carried into full effect, and to report to the Legislature the result of their examination.

In compliance with the act, the Board of Visitors have since the commencement of the present session, carefully examined the buildings now being erected, and which are nearly completed for the use of the Institution. They are all correctly described in the Report of the Building committee, which, with the Report of the Trustees, will accompany this communication, and we have no hesitancy in expressing our opinion, that all the buildings have been constructed of the most appropriate materials, and when completed, cannot fail to answer the benevolent object contemplated by the Legislature in their erection. Not only have the most suitable materials been used in the construction of the buildings, but their internal arrangements, as to rooms for the use of the patients and for other necessary purposes, could not well be improved. They are calculated to afford accommodations for about one hundred and two patients. The Board of Visitors feel justified in commending to the Legislature that a judicious, and at the same time a rigid economy has governed the doings of the Trustees of the Institution in their expenditures. It will be seen, by a reference to their Report, that the whole cost and expense of this Institution, from its commencement up to the time when it will be in readiness for the reception of patients, will not have been, (by at least 65 per cent.) the average cost of similar Institutions in the different States—a fact highly creditable to the judgment and good management

of those charged with the execution of this work. It must afford great satisfaction to the members of our Legislature, and to the people of our State, that the actual cost of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane will not much exceed in amount one-third of the actual cost of the "State Lunatic Asylum" at Worcester in Massachusetts; which is probably one of the best constructed institutions of the kind taking into consideration the extent of its accommodations, in the United States.

It should be borne in mind that of the sum of \$34,064.23, the estimated cost of our Asylum, nothing has yet been drawn from the Treasury. A grant of thirty shares, amounting to fifteen thousand dollars, which the State owned in the New Hampshire Bank, has been made to the Asylum. The proceeds of this stock have, up to this time, comprised all the funds drawn from the State for the accomplishment of the work. The remainder has been liberally granted to the State in aid of the object by the town of Concord, by the Society of Shakers and by other benevolent individuals.

The Board of Visitors have ascertained that it will be necessary to have erected an additional building, for the better accommodation of those patients, who may be so furious and violent in their insanity as to render their connection with other patients, by occupying rooms in the same building, hazardous to their own safety, and to the well-being of those who may be suffering from a partial alienation of mind. The reasons, showing the necessity of this additional building, are set forth with great force and propriety in the report which has been submitted by the Trustees, and to which we would refer the Legislature, and in our judgment are sufficient to justify the expense.—We would, therefore, respectfully suggest that the benevolent purposes of the Institution cannot be fully accomplished, without an additional building detached from the Asylum.

We have satisfied ourselves that such an appendage has been regarded as of indispensable necessity at other similar institutions. It must be known to every observer, that the human mind is so wonderfully constituted, that by reason of some peculiar mental affection, a slight insanity only, in some cases, exists upon some particular subject, when upon all others sanity and right reason is discoverable; while in

other cases an infuriated, riotous and uncontrolled madness prevails. It would seem to the Board of Visitors to accord with that spirit of humanity, which induced the early movements of our Legislature in this work of benevolence and philanthropy, to place these two classes of patients in apartments in the same building. The effect would be most unfavorable to those who are suffering from partial insanity, produced by some excitement or temporary cause, and who, we all know, by a course of judicious treatment, have been soon restored to their right minds, and to the enjoyments of social life. — And it is no less true that the more furious and violent would be managed with greater difficulty, if they were permitted to mingle with those affected (although to a less degree) with the same malady. The treatment and cure of the insane require extraordinary skill, and great self-command. It is a matter of fact that the most furious and riotous patients have been greatly benefited and in some instances restored to reason at these institutions.

In their early confinement it is made necessary to keep this class of patients under the most rigid restraint. Stronger apartments, furnished in different order, and with different materials, are necessary for their security. In the course of time a disciplinarian Superintendent discovers the secret springs of their actions, and by keeping the sources of their conduct magnified, they have been able to bring back their minds to an unexcited and composed condition. This can only be done by keeping this unfortunate class of our fellow-beings in well secured apartments and entirely separate from others, especially from those who may be afflicted to some extent in the same way.

Policy, then, as well as a sense of humanity require that there should be a separate building for the exclusive accommodation of this class of patients. We have no reason to doubt, considering the size and appropriate materials necessary to be used in the construction of the building, looking to its strength and durability, that the estimated cost is as low as would cover its actual expense. We would, therefore, respectfully recommend to the Legislature to make the appropriation requested for this purpose. The Board of Visitors

would respectfully suggest to the Legislature that it is, in their opinion, a matter of great importance to the State, that the "New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane" should commence its operations under such auspicious circumstances, as would give to it a character that would insure success.

We have within the limits of our own State many persons suffering, to a greater or less degree, the most afflictive malady which can possibly afflict the children of men: *the deprivation of their right reason, the partial extinguishment of that light given to them for guide and direction through life.* It would seem from experience that this malady, great as it is, may be mitigated, if not wholly cured, by human skill. And this conviction has already stimulated those who have gone before us, to devise ways and means for improving our condition of this unfortunate portion of the community. It remains for the present Legislature to consummate the benevolent and praiseworthy purposes of our predecessors.

By a reference to the act of the Legislature of June 19, 1861, it would seem that the probable expense of this Institution was computed, by its early friends, at not less than forty thousand dollars.

The Board of Visitors feel assured that the cost will fall much below that sum, and excluding what has been and may be received from the Bank Stock given by the State to the Asylum, not more than Eight Thousand dollars will be required to erect the additional building and put the Institution into full operation. We would therefore respectfully suggest that the Legislature should, at its present session, appropriate that sum for the use of the Asylum. We are all of the opinion that it would be economy for the State now to complete this Institution. Materials are on hand which may profitably be used, and laborers are now in the employ of the State whose further services could be advantageously secured. And as we have commenced this work of philanthropy, every consideration of humanity should prompt us to go forward, and do what we can to give to those, who are now involved in darkness and derangement, *the light of intelligence and the restoration of reason.*

HENRY HUBBARD,
CYRUS BARTON,
SAMUEL G. BERRY,
JAMES M. K. WILKINS,
SAMUEL EGGLETON,
JAMES H. JOHNSON,
JOSIAH QUINCY,
SAMUEL S. WASKY.

Concord, June 3, 1812.

Board of Visitors of
the N. H. Asylum
for the Insane.

REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

Pursuant to the request of the Board of Visitors of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, the Building Committee and the Trustees of said Asylum make to them the following statements of their acts and doings, amount of their fund on hand, and their sums estimated necessary to complete and furnish the buildings and put the establishment into successful operation.

Immediately after the passage of the act of Dec. 17, 1810, authorizing the Trustees to proceed in the erection of an Asylum in Concord, on condition that the town of Concord should transfer and convey to said Asylum—conveyances to the amount of \$9,000, they met and organized the Board by choosing a President, Secretary and Treasurer, and procured to lease said Asylum in the town of Concord, about three-fourths of a mile south-westerly from the State House; said Town of Concord having previously secured to said Asylum the sum of Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars. A building committee was soon after appointed, authorized to erect suitable buildings on the land obtained for that purpose.

They have nearly completed the Asylum, consisting of a centre building and two wings.

The centre building is 48 feet in length, 44 in width, and four stories in height, with a basement. The wings are each 36 feet long, 30 feet wide and three stories high. They are in the same line, extending to the right and left from the opposite ends of the centre building. The front of the centre building projects 2½ feet forward of the front of

the wings. The wings being 26 feet wide, half their width, or thirteen feet joins upon the centre building; the other half falls in its rear. This arrangement connects the centre with the wings, so far as to allow a free communication between them by means of stairways and thoroughfares, and at the same time so far disconnects them, that the inside ends of the long halls in the wings (hereafter mentioned) falls in the rear of the centre, open into the external air, and thus, as it regards ventilation, the advantages of separate buildings are secured to the wings. The cellar extends under both wings. An excavation of three or four feet was necessary in order to lay the foundation, and by excavating a little deeper than was indispensable for that purpose, a great amount of room is obtained and many obvious advantages secured.

The basement story of the centre building is designed for a kitchen, dining-room, pantry, &c. The front part of the first, second and third stories of the centre building consisting of six rooms 17 by 23, three halls with large closets in each of them and two sleeping rooms, and the fourth story divided into nine suitable sleeping apartments with large closets in 8 of them, are intended for a Superintendent and his family, a steward and the domestics and laborers necessarily employed in and about so extensive an establishment. The attic is designed, and will be suitable when finished, for a chapel.

The wings are in each story divided in the centre by a long aisle, 12 feet in width, and extending from end to end, to be used as day rooms for the inmates, with their apartments. In consequence of the wings falling half their width, as before mentioned, in the rear of the centre building, these halls communicate, at both ends, with the external air; and thus far means of a most thorough ventilation are secured. Whoever has visited any public establishment, where the entire end of the wing is met and closed in by the side of the main building, cannot have failed to perceive the salubrity of the atmosphere at that place, compared with it at the other end where free admission has been given to the pure air. On each side of these halls are the apartments designed for the inmates. They are 8 feet by 13, and are all provided with a permanent seat secured in the wall. Each apartment has a large window,

with an upper sash of cast-iron, and a lower sash of wood both of which are glazed. Immediately within the wooden sash is a false sash of cast-iron, corresponding with the wooden one in appearance and dimensions. This is set firmly into the sides of the window frame, a narrow space being left at the bottom for the water to pass off and save frame from decay. When the wooden sash is raised the false one presents a barrier against escape or injury from leaping out through the window. It is said that a man, however *feraciously* wild or impatient at confinement he may be, will rarely attempt to break through a window until he has first tried unsuccessfully to raise it. If this be so, this simple contrivance will afford effectual security both to property and person, without inflicting any injurious restraint upon the patient. Each of these apartments is provided with two air flues, one for heated and the other for cold air. It is intended to warm the wings by furnaces placed in the cellar. The hot air is to be conducted from the furnaces through flues in the hall's walls, and to be discharged through openings into the halls. By these means the air in the halls may be raised to any desirable temperature.

Over the door of each apartment, there is a small aperture, through which the heated air in the halls will pass into the rooms, and thence be carried into the attic by means of the hot air flue of the room. The aperture of this flue is at the bottom of the room, and is to be kept open only in the winter. The aperture of the other flue is at the top of the room and is to be kept open in the summer, so that the air when made light by heat will rise and pass off through this channel, and the cool air from without will rush in to supply its place. All these flues open into the attic, which is ventilated by skylights in the roof, and large fan windows at the ends. At the end of the wings, and where they join on and are connected with the rear part of the centre building the halls open into the dining and day rooms before mentioned in the centre building. These rooms are fired up with the same means of strength and security as are provided for the apartments in the wings, and being directly connected with the halls, are to be warmed from them. The dining-rooms, occupying the rear of the 1st, 2d and 3d stories of the centre building, are of course situated

immediately over the kitchen and laundry. Adjoining these rooms a perpendicular space is left open from the kitchen to the third story, through which, by means of an apparatus similar to a windlass, and called a dumb-waiter, the food can be raised from the kitchen and be distributed to all the patients in the six different divisions without inconvenience. Each story in the wings is provided with a bathing-room, a washing room, water-closet, &c. The large windows at each end of the hall, next to the centre building, are to be protected by an open framework of iron. Each hall has a separate stairway, leading into the cellar of each wing, so that each story in each wing is as entirely disconnected from all the others, as if it were a separate building. This allows that separation and classification of the patients on which all treatises upon the means of restoring the insane so strenuously insist.

The roof of the Hospital is covered with slate. Besides the security which this material furnishes against fire, any other covering, it was believed, would seem incongruous with the public character of the building, its solidity and expected durability.

To prevent unwholesome moisture from being deposited upon the inside walls of the edifice, an interstice or open space is left between the external and internal courses of bricks—the courses being strongly fastened together by ribs—so that a free circulation of air through all the exterior walls, from the underpinning to the attic will effectually obviate that almost universal inconvenience of brick habitations.

Careful enquiry was made previous to the commencement of the present building, of Superintendents of various Hospitals and of Architects, as to the best plan to be adopted, and from information then, as well as since obtained, we believe that for cheapness, durability and convenience, no better mode of construction could have been adopted than that which has already been adopted. We have been informed by those who have visited various Hospitals in the United States, and who were good judges of the wants of such an Institution, that this will be far more convenient than many they have seen erected at a much greater expense, and that they knew of none so well calculated for the purposes intended.

Having the experience of other Hospitals, the Committee have endeavored to improve upon them, not only in convenience but in cheapness of construction, and they flatter themselves they have so far succeeded, that should they be able to finish it according to their expectations, an Institution will be erected and put in operation both worthy of the object and the character of the State.

They have built a barn also, which is nearly completed, 42 feet by 50, with 18 feet posts, with a cellar under the whole, and to be finished with all the necessary stalls, a granary and carriage room. The farm consists of one hundred and twenty-one acres of land of different varieties of soil adapted to agriculture, almost every part of which may be seen from the Avonham.

At an Institution like this there are always, from time to time, some patients sent so furiously mad, noisy and violent, as to render it necessary for them, as well as most indispensable to the safety and quiet of other patients, that they should be placed in a separate building. A building 80 by 30 feet, two stories on one side and one on the other, would be sufficient to accommodate 8 males, and 4 female patients, and also furnish room for washing and those who shall attend to the same and have the care of the patients. It should be placed on the side hill directly in the rear of the Hospital. The outside of the buildings should be of brick, and need not be very strong—eight inches in thickness would be sufficient—the covering to be of slate. The inner walls or partitions should be strong and cemented at the foundation; they should be twelve inches thick and the front of the same rooms sixteen inches. Three or four of the rooms for males should be stronger, and the sides of the rooms or walls should be made of solid blocks of granite or in courses.—The floors of all the patients rooms should be of stone in one or two pieces, and the top sealed up with plank or boards. The doors may be of plank with an opening through them or an opening at the side of them for lighting and ventilating the rooms. There should be a ventilating chimney from the top of each room into the attic. The rooms are to be heated by furnaces or stoves under them so arranged that the same floor may always be heated; that the patient in the coldest weather may not expose himself by tearing off his clothing. The patients rooms should be nine feet or more square, placed in two

rows back to back, opening by a door into the arena intended nearly to surround them. In the same building should be a room 20 by 20 feet for washing, supplied with two or three copper kettles and permanent fuel; also a room 12 by 15 feet for the man and his wife who shall have the care of the patients in this building, and who will do the washing with what assistance they may have from the inmates of the Hospital. The cost of such a building is estimated at \$2,000.

The committee have made no preparation for the erection of such a building on account of the want of funds. Should the Legislature think it expedient to furnish the necessary means, however, it can be constructed the present season, and as soon as it will be needed for the purpose. The principal reasons in favor of such a building are, because the noise of such patients would disturb the other inmates, and keep them in confusion; because they would be dangerous to the other patients and do injury to the building; because of their tendency to tear off their clothes and destroy clothing; because the habits of some are so filthy that they cannot be kept sufficiently decent to mingle with others; because they need a warmer place than the rooms in the main building when they are too furious to wear clothing and the rooms in the building described can be made warm except for those who will wear no clothing, and because it would be better for the recovery of such persons, that they should be secluded for a time until they shall have become calmed and quieted. Such a building is especially necessary at the outset, while the institution is filling up, in order that the same remedial means for the recovery of patients may be used as advantageously at this Asylum as at others, that it may obtain a character which will entitle it to the confidence and patronage of the public and of the friends of the Insane.

Amount paid for Dora to the Asylum.	\$4,100 00
In addition to that sum over \$1,000 was paid to the owner by the citizens of Concord who were desirous of a location on the spot selected.	
Amount already expended towards erection of the Hospital and Barn	

and other incidental expenses,	\$18,992 25
Amount necessary for furniture of both wings and centre building es- timated in the report of Nov. Session, 1846, and which we have re-examined and be- lieve to be in the main correct,	\$7,162 00
Amount necessary to complete the Hospital building and Barn,	\$6,478 00
Amount necessary to be expended im- mediately for wharfing up about the Hospital and barn, estimated at,	\$200 00
Amount necessary for the building for the furrows issue and washing room, &c., as estimated above,	\$2,500 00
	<hr/>
	\$34,032 25
Amount necessary for Horses and Car- riages, Oxen, Cows and Farming utensils,	\$1,000 00
Amount as estimated, necessary to furnish provisions, wood and other stores and pay the expenses of the Asylum so be incurred before payment can be received of the patients,	\$2,200 00
	<hr/>
Whole amount expended and estimated necessary to be expended to put the Asylum in operation,	\$37,232 25
	<hr/>
Amount which has been expended for the furniture and fixtures of the Hospital to date,	\$23,000 25
Amount of available funds on hand,	\$5,564 00
Amount expected to be realized from Bank Stock of Portsmouth within a year, above the par value already paid,	\$925 00
	<hr/>
Whole amount of funds expended and on hand deemed available,	\$29,489 25
	<hr/>
Balance wanted,	\$7,665 94

Of the above \$5,251.06 deemed available, \$300 is reckoned given by the Societies of Shakers at Canterbury and Enfield, to be disposed of as the Trustees think proper; although they expressed a desire that it should be applied to the relief of the indigent inmate.

In compliance with a suggestion of the Board of Visitors the committee would here state some of the large contracts. The stone work was all contracted for by the foot—the trench and cellar stone, and door stone and steps at 20 cents per foot; the underpinning (being 4 feet 8 inches in height) at 33 cts. per foot, measuring but one face of either. The hammering was done at the Prison—door stones, steps, &c. at one shilling per foot; window caps and sills at one dollar per window; the whole expense of which was \$2,250. The quantity of brick purchased and laid into the building and well, was but a few short of one million—at an average cost of about \$4,321.2 per thousand, delivered at the Asylum. The carpenters' and joiners' work of every description was contracted for at \$3,120. The committee would do injustice to their own feelings were they to omit expressing their gratification at being able to state that Mr. Lamon Page, the stone contractor, Messrs. Adams, Sonies and Price, the contractors to lay the bricks at \$2.50 per thousand—Mr. Whittemore, who contracted to do the plastering at \$600—Mr. Watson to do all the carpenters' and joiners' work—have all been punctual and faithful in the performance of their several contracts, and have done their work to our acceptance so far as the same is performed—the stone and brick workmen having finished their contracts.

It will be perceived, by the foregoing communication, that an additional appropriation will be necessary to put the Institution into successful operation, and more than was originally expected by the Board of Trustees. This is occasioned in part from their not having as yet realized so much by \$2,500 from the Bank Stock appropriated by the State as was hoped, it having been supposed, from information obtained, that the shares were worth \$1,500 above par value; in part on account of the roof of the building, being slated instead of shingled, as was originally contemplated, at an extra expense of \$800; in part from the Trustees not being aware of the necessity of erecting another building for the more furious inmate, which is ac-

needed to cost \$2,400; in part from their not having considered the amount which will be wanted, to defray the expenses of the Institution previous to receiving any pay from the patients, which is estimated at \$2,500; in part from their having caused to be erected a barn, which with the cellar will cost \$800.00—and numerous other incidental expenses being incurred which had not been fully considered, and which when taken separately, are small, but in the aggregate amount to a considerable sum, such as digging the well 26 feet deep and bricking it up with 25,000 of brick; furnishing a pump and lead pipe for the same; paying the architect for drawing plans and superintending the work a part of the time; excavating sand and filling up around the Asylum, &c.

The committee have ascertained the cost of eleven other Asylums for the Insane in different parts of the United States, including lands, buildings and furniture attached to each and which is exhibited in the following table:

State and where located.				
	No. of rooms for patients about	Whole cost with land	Cost of accommodations per each patient,	Area of land,
Bloomington, N. Y.	150	\$219,000	\$1460	71
State, at Ulster, N. Y.	280	275,000	582	
Penn. Hospital, Philadelphia	200	325,000	1625	
Friends' Asylum, Frankford, Pa.	65	84,000	1300	61
Insane Hospital, Baltimore, Md.	400	200,000	1666	16
McLean, Charlestown, Mass.	140	250,000	1800	
State L. Hospital, Worcester, Mass.	220	104,469.81	455.31	60
State Hospital, Columbus, Ohio	145	108,000	745	57
State, South Carolina	100	100,000	900	28
Western Va., at Staunton	110	75,000	600	60
Angora, Maine	120	100,000	833	70
N. H. Asylum for Insane, Concord	114	36,054.25	300	121

It will be perceived by the above table that the N. H. Asylum when completed, with strong rooms, &c., will cost but a little more than one quarter of the average cost of

the Asylums for at least the same contingencies, and one-third less than the cheapest. The average cost at all the Hospitals has been \$1,113.00 for each patient they will accommodate, while our own cost but about \$366.00 for each patient; and the State Hospital at Worcester, Mass., the least expensive of the whole, excepting our own, cost over \$450.00 for each patient. From this statement a comparison can be formed of the economy with which the Hospital has been erected. The average amount of land connected with the Hospitals is about 50 acres, while we have 121 acres; and the largest amount belonging to any other Asylum is 77 acres. The importance of a large farm cannot be too highly appreciated.

It is to be considered that of the \$27,868.29, the whole funds of the Asylum including the amount expended as well as the available funds on hand, only about \$45,000 has been derived from appropriation to the State, the rest having been derived from the loans of Concord and benevolent individuals who have contributed in aid of the object.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN CONANT,
C. H. PEASLEE,
JOSIAH STEVENS, JR.

*Building committee
of the N. H. Asyl-
um for the Insane.*

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

The building Committee have above presented a statement in detail of their proceedings during the past year, and of the present condition of the Hospital. It is a gratification that it is so near its completion and that the prospects of the institution are so favorable. Applications have been made for a considerable number of patients; and when we consider that fifty or more insane persons from this State are now supported at great expense in Hospitals in other States, and when the census of 1840 shows us about 100 insane persons in the State, we cannot doubt that its apartments will be filled, and that speedily. When we reflect that many of the insane are shut up in jails or confined in dwellings deprived of comforts and a grief or terror to their friends, who that has a heart does not rejoice that a Home is soon to be prepared where they may be kept safely and treated tenderly and probably restored to their right mind?

During the past year 228 patients have been discharged from the Hospitals at Worcester, Charlestown and Beaufort, of whom 198 were entirely restored, and about 70 others much relieved. Of the new cases nearly 80 in every 100 were cured. This is the result everywhere, if the cases are attended to like other diseases upon the first attack. What joy must be carried to many a home at the restoration of a father or mother, a brother or sister, a wife or child, and if the New Hampshire Asylum could but relieve one half as many, who would begrudge the expense?

Insane Hospitals now exist in every State in New England, in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, Kentucky, Ohio and probably in some other States. Their value and importance is settled beyond a question. They are institutions which the increasing intelligence and philanthropy of the age have rendered necessary, and which determine to some extent the character of the the State. In most cases so useful and popular have they been found, that they have been compelled to extend their accommodations. We would place our native State, in this respect, in that elevated position which she occupies in so many others. She has made liberal appropriations for the support and education of the deaf, dumb and blind; the insane form a larger class in number and more deserving of pity and aid. In point of education no State is her superior. Her common schools and scholars, her higher academies and their scholars, and her professional men are more numerous than in any other State. All this is justly a subject of State pride, but the best proof of intelligence is an enlightened philanthropy, and a regard for the well-being of those unfortunate members of the community who cannot take care of themselves. In so good a cause New Hampshire will never allow herself to be behind the sister States.

This institution is the property of the State, although nearly one-half of its cost is the gift of individuals and of the town of Concord. Thus far the State has acted with judiciously liberality, and the State may well be proud of her Asylum. — The funds given by the State, however, have proved much less than was anticipated, while necessary expenses have been incurred which were not estimated, and a further appropriation will be necessary to furnish the buildings, and put the Institution in a fit state for the reception

of patients. The Trustees have no personal interest in this matter except as friends of the insane and children of the State. — They receive no compensation for their time or trouble. It is a labor of love and given for the sake of the cause. That the Hospital is built thoroughly we know. That it is convenient and well adapted to its purpose we have the assurance of competent men. That its erection has been economical is evident from the fact that its cost, when completely furnished and in operation, including the appropriation required, will be less than two-thirds of that of any other Hospital of which we have an account. That there is pressing demand for its immediate completion is proved by repeated applications for admission. We cannot believe then that the Legislature will withhold an appropriation sufficient to put it in operation, or delay the hopes of those who are looking forward to it for relief.

JOHN CONANT,
JOSEPH LOW,
CHARLES J. FOX,
ISA ST. CLAIR,
JOSIAH STEVENS, JR.,
G. W. RITTREDGE,
C. H. PEASLEE.

} *Trustees of the N. H.
Asylum for the In-
sane.*

N. H. Patriot, Oct. 6, 1842.

THE STATE INSANE ASYLUM. — The Asylum for the Insane is now open for the reception of patients. The price of board for patients has been fixed at \$2.25 per week—very low compared with other similar institutions. Bonds with good surety for payment of the board are required. People wishing for information can apply to the Trustees or to Dr. Geo. Chandler, Superintendent. We congratulate the friends of the Insane that the services of so able, learned and eminently qualified a gentleman, have been secured as Superintendent.

One patient was admitted last week. He is from Taftonborough, and was rendered insane by excitement upon the subject of the second advent. He prays, preaches, exhorts and harangues every morning four hours upon the stretch, and during the rest of the day is quite easy.

N. H. Patriot, Nov. 3, 1842.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

At the cold and inclement season of the year, we would particularly remind those who have friends and relatives insane, that a retreat has been provided for them, where they can be made warm and comfortable and receive the attentions of a long experienced Physician and nurses from the Asylum at Worcester, and where every curative means will be adopted for their recovery, at the low price of \$2.25 per week.

One of the twelve which has been received at the Hospital, was discharged a few days since, completely recovered, who was brought there but three weeks previous a raging maniac—cursing, screaming, shouting and bellowing as he came from his place of residence to the Institution. So furious was he, that three or four men were deemed necessary to safely convey him to his new place of abode; and the whole amount of charges for his board, nursing, &c., was but \$6.75. It is true that instances of recovery in so short a time are not frequent; there is no doubt, however, but insanity yields as readily as any other acute disease of equal severity, if the proper remedial means are seasonably adopted, and there is no little doubt, that those only can be obtained at the Asylum. Economy then, as well as justice and mercy, require that immediately on their first attack, the insane should be sent to the Institution prepared with as much care and expense for the express purpose of affording them every means of comfort and cure—to an Institution where the architectural arrangements are such, that the proper classification of patients can be had—where chains are not used and even confinement to the cells seldom resorted to—where harsh treatment with all needless restraint are avoided—where they can be taken out to ride in pleasant weather—where some can be permitted to go about the House and employ themselves in different occupations and partake of various amusements—where the Physician and attendants by constant and patient care inculcate habits of personal neatness, and pleasantly check the folly and petulance, cheer the desponding, turn the thoughts of those afflicted in insane illnesses into a new channel, walk, ride, amuse in amusements with them, to whom they look as their benefactors, friends and companions, and not as their servants or task-masters.

An insane man at the Worcester Asylum being once asked if he did not find his present situation more comfortable than the one he had left, replied with most emphatic utterance and gesture, "Oh, that was Hell, but this is Heaven!" So would hundreds of insane in New Hampshire think and feel, could they be transferred from the dark, cold, filthy miserable sheds, where they are now dragging out a wretched existence, to the neat, spacious and well warmed and well ventilated halls of the Asylum, where they would meet with every kindness and attention; where every fear would be banished; every want would be promptly supplied; every needless restraint removed; every harmless indulgence granted and the mind in ruins be gradually built up to its former elevated condition.

The towns of Hudson, Franklin and some others have already sent their pauper insane and there can be no doubt that every town in the State would find it for their pecuniary interest on account of the comparative quickness of recovery which can be obtained at the Asylum, if they would immediately adopt the example dictated alike by humanity and enlightened economy. Let the Christian and Philanthropist, while extending his sympathies beyond the ocean, harken to the groans of the insane in our own jails—to the clanking of their chains in cages fit only for wild beasts, and in our poor houses. Let kind and benevolent ladies think of the many pure and virtuous females who are now insane, but were once as sensitive and delicate as themselves, the pride and ornament of every circle, admired and caressed in the bloom of beauty, health and innocence by smiling friends, joyous companions and doting parents; and who are now but partially covered with a few filthy and tattered garments, obscene, loathsome and impure in language and manners, subject to the mockery, derision and insults of the young and degraded; and let all for once engage in seeking out the unfortunate, fatherless, forsaken, and wretched beings in *our own towns and neighborhoods*; and since we have an Asylum of such cheap and easy access, cause them to be sent to a place where they will be cared for, and made as comfortable and happy as their condition will admit, and soon to be restored to their friends and relatives, to happiness, to usefulness and society. The benevolent could not engage in a nobler, halier work, for—

"The saddest scene beheld in Time,

Is a man, to-day the glory of his kind,

In reason clear, in understanding large,

In judgment sound, in fancy quick, in hope

Abundant, and in promise like a field

Well cultured and refreshed with dews from God;

To-morrow, chained, and caving mad, and whipped

By servile hands; sitting on dismal straw,

And gnawing with his teeth against the chain,

The iron chain that bound him hand and foot;

And trying whiles to send his glaring eye

Beyond the wide circumference of his noose;

Or humbling more, more miserable still,

Giving us illud luctu, that serves to show

The blasted severity of his horrid face;

Calling the stone his sceptre, and the stone

On which he pined sits, his royal throne.

Poor, poor, poor man! fallen far below the gentle!

His reason strives in vain, to find her way,

Lost in the stormy desert of his brain,

And being active still, she works all strange,

Fantastic, execrable, monstrous things."

N. H. Patriot, Dec. 22, 1842.

The Trustees of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane would gratefully acknowledge the receipt of forty dollars recently given by William Pomeroy, Esq., of Londonderry, and sixty dollars previously given by the same person.

At no period probably will the Asylum so much need the assistance of its friends as at its commencement. Donations therefore at the present time acquire additional importance from the peculiar situation of the institution.

C. H. PEASLEE,

Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

N. H. Patriot, Jan. 2, 1843.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

We understand that twenty-nine patients have been received at the Asylum and that five of them have been restored to their reason and families. The average amount paid by those restored for boarding, nursing and medical assistance would be only about fourteen dollars each.

There are now ten male and fourteen female inmates of the Hospital, and some of these are often seen riding in our streets with the superintendent and frequently at church. The trustees were exceedingly fortunate in obtaining so excellent a man as Dr. Chandler to take charge of the institution. We frequently hear him and also the attendants spoken of in the highest terms of commendation by the friends of the insane and others who visit the Asylum. It may now be considered fairly and successfully in operation, and we have no doubt it will fully answer the most sanguine anticipations of its friends. We advise all who are so unfortunate as to have their relations insane, to send them immediately on their first attack to this admirably managed institution, where every thing will be done for their comfort, happiness and recovery which possibly can be done and in the kindest manner.

N. H. Patriot, Jan. 19, 1843.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

We understand that in the month of January thirteen patients (seven males and six females) were received into the Asylum. There are now about forty inmates of the Hospital, and we learn that they are generally calm and are enjoying a reasonable degree of health. Patients have been received from every county except one or two in the State, and also from two or three other States.

Considering the number of insane who have already sought relief at this institution, so recently opened—the number already discharged cured, and the improved condition of the remaining patients, its friends cannot fail to be cheered and animated in the contemplation of its future prospects and usefulness. It is an honor to the State, and will not suffer in comparison as to benefits and blessings conferred by it, with any object ever before undertaken by the Christian and Philanthropist.

For the small sum of two dollars and twenty-five cents per week, the patients are furnished with board, washing, including of their clothes, fuel and lights, medicine for the sick, the services of experienced and faithful nurses, the

constant attention of the matron and the incessant care and watchfulness of the physician, not to mention the spacious buildings and halls so well adapted in their architectural arrangements for their restoration and comfort; the gratuitous services of the Trustees, the provision that is made for riding and walking out with their attendants in pleasant weather. Those who have under their charge and control the unfortunate and afflicted beings, who are unable to protect or speak for themselves, are assuming a fearful responsibility if they withhold from them the means of recovery and happiness which can now be procured at so cheap a rate. Selectmen of towns and overseers of the poor insane ought not to be indifferent as to their comfort and cure—but if they are so, the humane and benevolent in each town should see to it, that the poor insane with them are cared for and that justice is done them. One sebastian, who was brought to the Hospital a few weeks since a raging maniac, has been cured and restored to his family, to his duties and usefulness.— Others now in health may now be in the same dreadful situation, and it may be equally important for them that they should be sent to a place of recovery. Let those then who have placed under their charge the helpless insane, note out the same measure which they would have noted to them, if they were in the same deplorable condition.

N. H. Petriat, Feb. 23, 1845.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PORTSMOUTH JOURNAL.

THE INSANE HOSPITAL.

Meers, Editors.—Allow me, through your paper, to recall the public attention to the purpose, entertained at the late Session of the General Court, of establishing an Insane Hospital. This design had for some time before, been the subject of frequent and favorable mention in several quarters. —When introduced to the attention of the Legislature, it was thought sufficiently important to be referred to a Select Committee. Their report took an able view of the subject, described in elegant and faithful terms the horrors of insanity, treated the question of this method of its relief, on the large principles of humanity, and concluded forcibly in favor of the design. As the subject had not, however, been generally brought to the notice of the people, previous to the Session, many members did not consider themselves sufficiently informed of the dispositions of their constituents, to justify acting definitely upon it at that session; it was therefore allowed to lie by for the time, with the understanding I am informed, on the part of its friends, that a renewed action on the subject would be called for at a future Session.

That the public mind may be turned to this design, and definite conclusions arrived at before the next Session of the General Court, is my object in this notice. No period can be better calculated than the present, for undisturbed consideration of it. The excitement of politics, during its continuance too absorbing for the existence of any other interest,

has is a degree passed away. And I am not aware that at the next Session any subject is to be brought forward, which will divide the members by those distinct party lines so destructive of all beneficent designs, however remote from the truly "root of bitterness." Under these impressions, I hope that the coming Legislature will improve this season of political calm to distinguish its existence, and the State it will represent, by a great measure of humanity.

No affliction to which our race is liable, calls more imperiously for the aid of public beneficence than insanity. No other so effectually severs the ties of *private* feeling,—The insane man is marked off from the communion of his race. His nature is the more revolting, that while he wears the form and visage of man, they are in him either rendered frightful by perversity, or sink into the gross inhumanity of idiocy. He caricatures his species in every particular which shocks its pride or its sensibilities. He stands among them as not of them, but a fearful example of what each, in the last state of fallen humanity, feels with horror that he may become. The insane man feels none of the sympathies of kindred; he knows, he loves no home, no country; he has none of the higher reachings of the soul. All, all, is low, gross, fearful and revolting. He receives protection without gratitude and turns to perversity upon the very hand that is stretched out to help him. The sick man may regain his health, and pour forth his gratitude over the least which has felt for him in his weakness. Poverty may be changed into wealth, and he who is the object of protection and assistance to-day, may be the powerful friend and patron of to-morrow. But the insane is hopeless; his future is a long prospect of still deepening horror. The watchfulness that never falters, every year becomes more anxious, as the consequences of remissness become more fearful. Thus it is that no affliction tends so much to loosen the ties of kindred, as no other is so burdensome, so revolting, and so thankless. The expose given in the last message of our Governor, shows this point in a fearful light. The remedies of chains and fetters and prisons, therein detailed, while passing the dreadful demands of this affliction, equally show how far its treatment is necessarily removed from that of every other evil which our nature inherits. — And, every fact which moves this affliction more than any other out of the

pole of *private kindness*, and indeed of *private ability* shows equally the need of *public beneficence*.

An argument for the exertion of *public beneficence* in relation to insanity may be drawn from the wonderful success of Hospital treatment; and this is the strongest from its contrast with the usual hopelessness of private management. Perhaps, of insane persons in private keeping, not two in ten are ever restored, while I am yet persuaded from having given the subject no short nor limited attention, that of those placed under Hospital treatment in New England, I do not overrate results in stating, that two-thirds, I think more, ultimately return to the enjoyment of their reason. This results from the systematic treatment adopted from an extensive and professional view of the disease. Such institutions, under the control of physicians, whose professional labors and studies have been especially directed to this form of disease, of large practice in connection with it, of the utmost sagacity in directing the movements of the same, and in following the wanderings of the insane mind, uniting an unflinching benevolence with unmovable firmness, and simplicity with self-possession, (and in relation to this subject, none otherwise than thoroughly qualified in all these particulars should be thought of for a moment,) under such management these institutions are more successful—more unexpectedly and astonishingly so—than any *public benevolences* with which the age abounds.

I have written more than I intended, and if successful in calling public attention understandingly to the subject, shall perhaps take occasion in some future time to lay before it some facts, showing as well the necessity, as the results of Hospital management, under the present advanced views and treatment of the disease of insanity.

RESPECTFULLY, &c.,

Portsmouth Journal, March 2, 1833.

REPORT RECOMMENDING AN INSANE ASYLUM IN N. H.

The Committee, to which was referred "so much of the Governor's message as relates to the reform of the insane prison in this State," ask leave to report:

INSANITY is one of the most afflictive dispensations of Providence. Whatever be the form which this deplorable calamity assumes, to the mind it is the end of all usefulness and the closing of all the avenues of enjoyment, and to the body if the sufferer it is but one continued scene of solitude, if not of terror. The unfortunate being appears to exist only to suffer, and to excite most painfully, the sympathies of those with whom he is connected. From the nature of the case, an examination into this subject must present to the House a melancholy account of suffering and distress. The committee were not, however, prepared for the result which the examination affords. They were not aware of the extent of the disease. They had formed no conception of the extremity of the wretchedness to which the insane are reduced. In the prosecution of the inquiry, by the returns made to the executive, and by the collection of facts on this subject from those professionally acquainted with the condition of the insane, their situation throughout this State is found to be deplorable in the extreme, for the mitigation of which the prompt attention of the Legislature is imperatively demanded.

The number of the insane, as returned to the Governor, is two-hundred and one, more than half of whom are supported as paupers. From many towns no returns have been received; from others, the accounts are erroneous, there being cases known to the committee which escaped the notice of the selectmen. The actual number of insane is therefore much larger than appears by the documents submitted to the committee.

Where are the insane—what is their condition? There are individual cases, which by the kindness of friends able and willing to provide the means, are rendered as comfortable as their situation will admit. The number thus fortunate, the committee are constrained to observe, is comparatively small. Many, laboring under an inoffensive lathargy of mind, wander about, the sport of unthinking boys and unprincipled men. A large proportion, seventy-six, are

reported to be in close confinement. Some of them in chains, or in cages, made for their confinement; some are in the out-buildings, garrets or cellars of private houses, some are in our county gaols, shut up with felons and criminals of every description; some are in almshouses, in brick cells "never warmed by fire or lighted by the rays of the sun." The facts presented to the committee not only exhibit severe and unnecessary suffering, but utter neglect, and in many cases actual barbarity. To convince the House of the correctness of this general remark, they feel it to be their duty to report some of the instances to which they refer, however painful the account may be to every one not dead to all feelings of humanity. An insane woman who had wandered from her friends was confined in one of our gaols in winter and without fire. From the severity of the cold and her fixed posture her feet became so much diseased that it was considered necessary to amputate them at the ankle; which was accordingly done, and the woman afterwards restored to her friends in this mutilated condition. Another female was confined in a garret, where from darkness of the room and her consequently constrained position, she grew dumb, and is now obliged to walk with her hands as well as feet on the floor. A man was confined for years in a cellar, nearly naked, with a bed of wet straw;—another is at this time chained to the floor of an out-building, "glad to pick the bones thrown into his kennel like a beast"—one with sufficient property—once in every respect as active and happy as the best of us. It is admitted that these are extreme cases; but few of the many known to the committee. The accounts submitted to them exhibit a mass of extreme, unmitigated suffering, from the details of which humanity revolts.

This state of things has been permitted to exist merely because it was unknown. In the extremity of the disease the maniac is withdrawn from observation. He is passed out of sight and forgotten. The prosperous look not in upon the secrets of his prison house. His wail, in his raving, reaches not on the ear of the happy. They who have the custody of the wretched being are too prone to forget their duty and his claims upon them for kindness and forbearance. Their sympathy is exhausted and their kindness becomes blinded by familiarity with misery. They often give up the feelings of the friend, for the apathy of the jailor, and after re-

during the madness to the utmost degradation of which human nature is capable, so that he has lost almost the form and appearance of a man; they have in many cases utterly neglected even the appearance of making provision for his wants. There is too, on this subject a common error, that the lunatic is insensible to suffering, and that the disease is incurable; thus the unfortunate subjects of this malady, as if they had lost their birth-right as men—"as if they had fallen stars from the sphere of reason," are consigned over to chains and imprisonment and doomed to wear away a wretched existence until death like a kind angel comes to their relief.

We need something to supply this defect in private sympathy, for it is not true that the insane are insensible to suffering.—Hunger, cold, confinement, neglect and the privation of all the accustomed comforts of life affect them as it would affect us. Besides, in many cases of insanity there is a morbidly increased sensibility to physical suffering. They shrink from the least exposure and from the high excitement of the system have not the ordinary power of endurance even of the common evils of life. Excepting in cases of complete idiosy the disease is confined to a part or portion of the mind. Unusually, the patient is sane on all subjects but the one hallucination which, to a superficial observer appears to engross every faculty, and to completely enslave the intellect. The fear of some impending calamity—the dread of some unknown danger is frequently the mark of the disease. This must certainly be increased by neglect and physical suffering; and if on all other subjects, the mind judge correctly, no one, from this partial insanity can be inoculated to injurious treatment.

The suffering of the insane in their present situation cannot be avoided. A very small portion of them have friends able and willing to procure a watch by night and by day. Imprisonment or chains is the only resource for the necessary restraint. Nor have they the means to render this confinement tolerable. In many towns there are no proper establishments, and where they are, they are not adapted either for the comfort or recovery of the lunatic. The cage, the cell, the garret, the sub-building, the goal and the brick cell of the poor house are the only alternatives. This state of things is not peculiar to our community. A recent report to the Legislature of Massachusetts observes, that there were more

imprisonments for insanity than for debt; and that the lunatic was visited with a heavier doom than the felon. To quote the language of this report, "they have been considered as no criminal was ever condemned and have suffered as no criminal ever suffered. The code by which they have been adjudged denounces against them the penalties due only to crime, while it is mitigated by say of those merciful provisions which in the penal code attenuate justice with humanity."

The claims of the lunatic in this age of benevolence have not been entirely forgotten. The public attention is turned towards them. Recent disclosures render it certain that their situation will be improved and their abject sufferings will be mitigated. The time we trust is not far distant when the evils we have described will be unknown. Hospitals for their recovery—refuges for their comfortable support, have multiplied around us. They have been established in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and Penn., and probably in many other of the more distant States. They are not mere experiments. Time has tested their value. They open their doors for the relief of these forlorn beings; they empty the cell and the prison; they remove from the family the woe-worn maniac whose presence would seem to blight every prospect of happiness; they strike from off his hands and feet the manacle and chain, furnishing a home, where he can be securely kept, and rendered as comfortable as his situation will permit, any more; they restore back to friends, to happiness, to usefulness, hundreds annually who would otherwise have withered in chains and imprisonment as incurable maniacs.

In these establishments alone can the means of restoration be used with any assurance of success. As the lunatics are now situated there is reason for the opinion that for them there is no hope but in death.

The treatment to which they are so often subjected—treatment which would make the sane mad, gives strength and permanency to a slight attack of the disease. The most violent symptoms, requiring the closest confinement, are found to yield more easily to medical skill than the gradual and passive form of insanity. Yet the treatment of the former is such, from the necessity of the case, as to quench the first spark of reason and doom the victim to a lengthened night

of mental darkness. It is this, not the nature of the malady, which places them out of the hope of restoration. Even when the kindness of friends is exerted to the utmost — when all is done which humanity can prompt and which wealth can execute, they have not at least the means of relief nor the professional skill which their case demands. The physician of a town who sees but one or two cases of insanity in a year cannot be proficient in its treatment. He has not the experience which extensive practice alone can give. He cannot devote to the patient the time and attention which are required. He cannot use the moral means on which he must depend principally for success. The patient must be taken from his accustomed associations. The peculiarity of the disease, and there is every evil and every degree of insanity, must be known and understood. That part of the mind which is morbidly excited must be soothed and regulated. Indeed, the skill and attention thus required, the means and opportunity on which success depends, cannot be had without the walls of a hospital.

The disease is far from being incurable. It has been stated to the committee by professional gentlemen, and their statements are fully supported by reports from various hospitals, that nine out of ten inmates have been restored to reason, when placed under judicious treatment in the early stages of the disease. Cases of very long standing have been cured; and instances often occur of the restoration after years of insanity. The report of an asylum near Philadelphia gives the following result: admitted in five years, one hundred and fifty-eight patients; discharged in the same time, recovered, fifty-three; improved, seventeen; much improved, twenty-three; without change, none. In the report at York, England, out of forty patients admitted within three months after the first attack, the whole number, forty, were restored to their friends recovered; of those admitted after three and within twelve months, the proportion of cures was as twenty-five to forty-five; but of those whose disease was of more than two years standing, the proportion of cures was only as fourteen to seventy-nine. A report from the Connecticut Retreat shows the ratio of recovery in the old cases to be twenty-six to the hundred,

and out of twenty-four recent cases twenty-two were recovered. With these facts before the public - with the prospects these reports furnish, shall we withhold the means and permit so many of our fellow beings, suffering under this awful visitation, to remain like the beasts of the field on which the light of reason never dawned?

If it were but to relieve their physical suffering, we need in this State the establishment of an Insane Hospital. The inmates of the cage and dungeon, from whom all the comforts of life are taken, whose existence is but one continued scene of abject suffering, claim relief from our hands as fellow-beings, this claim cannot, will not be disregarded. They ask from us a retreat from their suffering—a home where they can again be treated as men—where restraint when necessary can be rendered tolerable—where the ever varying nature of insanity can be treated with discrimination and humanity—where they can in some degree be restored to the dignity of their nature.

Even natives of courtesy urge upon us the establishment of a hospital for the insane. From an estimate made by his Excellency, the Governor, the citizens of the State annually expend the sum of \$15,000 for the support of lunatics. The committee do not consider it in their province to report a plan for the erection of a hospital, nor have they information to furnish an accurate estimate of cost of suitable buildings. They are of opinion however, that twenty thousand dollars—a sum but little more than the present annual expenditure for the maintenance of the insane, would be sufficient for this purpose. The expenses of the clothing and board of the inmates might be borne by the friends of the insane, and when paupers, by the town in which they have residence.

An annual appropriation from the State would be required for the pay of the superintendence only, and the terms of admission be so low as to enable all the subjects of insanity to avail themselves of the benefits of the asylum. It should in their opinion be located in a central part of the State, and be under the control and supervision of the Executive. The time appears favorable for the enterprise, as the condition of the Treasury will admit of this disbursement without a resort to a tax—a tax, however, for this object, if required, would be cheerfully paid by the citizens to the State. The committee,

impressed with these considerations unanimously recommend the establishment of an asylum for the insane. Their examination into the condition of these unfortunate beings has resulted in the conviction of the necessity of an immediate attention to the subject. The suffering of these by the Providence of God thus thrown upon the humanity of the public, is truly great, and no other means of relief, in the opinion of the committee, is adequate to remove the evil. They believe no legislative act is more loudly called for—that in no other way can the goodness of the public happiness in a greater degree subserve the cause of benevolence than by making the necessary appropriation for this important object.

The subject is highly interesting to every citizen of this State. It comes home to the feelings of every individual in this community.

It cannot be known on whom this calamity may fall. No man has a warrant of exemption for himself, or those who are necessary to his happiness. No one can say that he shall escape, or that there is a shield *hitherto* over his household that the "troubled spirit," may not enter there. The decrees of Providence are inscrutable. The happy and prosperous of this year are often the sick and distressed of the next. If insanity sometimes come as the cause of evil deeds—to chastise the wicked, it spares not the virtuous and the pure! If at times it be the consequence of unrestrained passions, or the excessive indulgence of appetite, it often arises from the keenness of those very feelings, and the strength of those very affections which when in subjection to reason, so highly adorn and so strikingly elevate the human character.

Which, with the accompanying resolution, is respectfully submitted,

S. E. Coates,

For the committee.

Resolved, That it is expedient that an Asylum for the Insane be established.

Portsmouth Journal, Jan. 5, 1835.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

We are much pleased to find that the public attention is directed to the accomplishment of this benevolent object. Much information respecting the condition of the Insane, and the benefit of these establishments in other States, has been disseminated among the people. The consequence has been, a general and strong interest in the subject throughout the State.

We learn from gentlemen now visiting the town, at this session of the Union, that the question of the establishment of the Asylum, is considered one of the most prominent questions, which will demand the attention of our Legislature. One of the objections urged during the last session of the Legislature, was, that it was a new subject, that the people were uninformed as to the necessity and effects of these establishments, that their constituents should be consulted on such a heavy expenditure of the public money. This objection, we think, will be done away. The public voice, so far as it is now heard speaks loudly; and it is now expected that the expression of the wishes of the people, will convince the Legislature that they feel a deep interest in the subject.

The sum required, at first sight, appears large; but at most, if evenly divided, it would be but the fraction of a dollar to each of our voters. We are for economy in the public expenditures—we are strict economy; and are pleased with the feelings of accountability which our office holders manifest to their constituents; but let it be recollected that economy is but the proper expenditure of money for valuable purposes—and the individual can hardly be termed "economical" who, to save a fraction of a dollar to each voter, would leave a hundred of his fellow beings in abject suffering—now necessarily resulting from the disease, but given a criminal neglect to furnish the means of relief which is in our power.

Portsmouth Journal, March 25, 1835.

THE LEGISLATURE.—The New Hampshire Legislature commenced its annual Session at Concord on Wednesday last. No subject of any great and special importance is likely to be agitated during its present sitting; at least we be-

have none which relates to the State exclusively has been discussed by the people or the press. An Asylum for the Insane was a topic of considerable legislation last season; but the manner in which this important subject was disposed of, leads us to apprehend that much effort will be necessary on the part of the people at home, in order to bring about such a result as the the condition of the Insane in our State seems to demand. The very interesting report, made by the special committee to which the matter was referred, is replete with facts and arguments clearly indicating that the condition of those who are bereft of their reason in our State, calls loudly for legislative aid; and so far as we have been able to learn public opinion, we are fully convinced that our Representatives would be sustained by the almost unanimous voice of their constituents, in making competent appropriations for the establishment of an Asylum that should accommodate those unfortunate beings for whose benefit it should be erected. We cannot but hope this subject will occupy a prominent place in the minds of all our legislators until a suitable provision is made for the comfort and convenience of those who are now or may hereafter become the victims of mental alienation. Such a measure would reflect the highest honor upon our State, and afford the best of the humanity and benevolence and wisdom of its citizens.

Portsmouth Herald, June 2, 1831.

The remarks which were offered on the subject of Insanity, in Mr. Combs' lecture before the Lyceum, particularly deserve the attention of all who are interested in the condition of that peculiarly unfortunate portion of society, who, shut out from the light of reason and from the sympathies of their fellow men, are incapable of making known their wants, or pleading their own cause. The institutions of benevolence objects everywhere to be seen throughout New-England, have long been, and will long continue to be, its greatest boast and ornament; nowhere has Christianity more widely spread abroad its spirit of love to all mankind than here, and nowhere has man more readily extended to his fellow man the open hand of kindness. Yet of the warts of our portion of the community, more perhaps to be pitied than any other, those sick not only in body but in

mind, there has been a strange forgetfulness.

Of all the ills which fall to our portion in our present state there is none from which we shrink with such a feeling of horror as from insanity, a disease blotting out the mind, checking all progress onward or upward, tossing under all sympathies and all affections, and leaving men with the mere brute creation. Our best, and most fruitful source of happiness, is that which springs from mutual kindness and mutual regard, yet from this last earthly refuge of the unfortunate, no one is entirely cut off, but from whose affections and sympathies are weighed down by the thick cloud of mental darkness. Is it not strange then and large we not care to approach ourselves, that in communities where so much is going on for the good of mankind, so little has been done for this large and increasing portion of it?

Insanity is a disease, which prevails in this country to a degree far greater than in any country in Europe. The cause is probably to be sought for in a much higher degree of mental excitement which prevails among us, especially on the subjects of politics and religion; at any rate, the fact is clearly proved, that in the New England States, there is to be found one insane or idiotic person, for about every two hundred and fifty of its inhabitants! What a fearful proportion, lowered down by a disease to most minds infinitely worse than death itself! Owing to the imperfect manner in which this disease is understood and treated by the greater portion of physicians the number of the permanently cured is exceedingly small, while in very many instances, from the ignorance or the prejudices of those about them, these wretched beings are made to suffer in a degree which it chills the blood to think upon, and this must almost always be the same, until something is done by the community to alleviate their condition.

In the lunatic asylums of this country, of Great Britain and of France, where the best medical treatment can always be had, the cures of this disease, once accounted almost beyond the reach of medical art, are surprisingly great. Of the patients treated in its early stages, more than three-fourths have been discharged entirely cured, while of the whole number, from one-third to a half, have returned to the duties of life. It is not to be wondered at, that in former times, when insanity was looked upon as the inner-

distate curse of heaven, and was treated only with the whip, the dungeons and the chain, as is even now too often the case; and while this branch of medical knowledge was almost unknown, that little should have been done for its unfortunate victims, but let it be our reproach that we have looked with apathy upon the worse affliction which falls to the lot of humanity, and that too, one to which we, as a people, are more than all others exposed.

In the State of Massachusetts, always among the first in all good undertakings, there has recently been established from the funds of the State, a Hospital for the Insane, where not only those capable of supporting themselves, but the afflicted of whatever station, may receive the benefits of the best medical and moral treatment, united, and it cannot be doubted that through this institution, the amount of human suffering in that state, will be greatly and rapidly diminished. It is to be hoped that exertions for the same object, may not long be wanting here, but that our own State may soon follow her excellent example.

Portsmouth Journal, March 1, 1834

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

When the delicate structure of the human frame—the fine tuned “harp of a thousand strings,” is duly contemplated—and when the discovery is made that the slight interruption of a single fibre may destroy the whole, it is a matter which ought to excite our grateful admiration of the wise and beneficent providence of our Creator, that so large a portion of our race have left to them the enjoyment of their reasoning faculties.

If the mind, that noble part which bears the impress of Deity, can be so easily prostrated and sunk in ruin, all hope of usefulness sliding with it, and no higher hope presented in this life than that of a wreck scarcely above the brute creation—how great, how alarming that wreck!

Yet be such a wreck all are liable—no favored one except, “from this fate I am secure.” All the robes and splendor, which the Babylonian monarch once found in his palace, did not save him from the degradation of a wreck

and a duelling with the beasts of the field, when reason was dethroned.

But why go back to distant times for examples, when we have among us, in almost every town, striking instances of the most distressing violations of Providence? Here we see one who has been chained for almost half a century—there another who is caged up to protect a family, in which he was once beloved and caressed, from his unwitting savage ferocity! There was another human being confined for years in a cellar, and fed through a hole in a floor:—and yet another, a father caged in the same room in which his family live, a spectacle of disgust, blunting all the nicer delicacies of feeling of a young family, and without hope of relief till death arrives.

Such are scenes from life, and are only a specimen of what a portion of the *Two Hundred and fifty* insane individuals in New Hampshire have to undergo for the want of a proper Asylum where they might receive that treatment and attention which, if there were no hope of their reason, would place them in a comfortable situation, and relieve that enormous weight of suffering and privation which they are now compelled to bear in addition to their disease.

The subject of an *Asylum for the Insane* has been before the Legislature of New Hampshire for several years. It was brought up there we think in 1821, by Samuel E. Chase, Esq., of this town, who at that time and since has advocated it with that ardor which the interest of the subject demands. As it can only be owing to the lack of general and extended information on the subject, that nothing has yet been done, we hope that no means will be spared at the present time, to spread such information before the public as cannot fail to awaken an interest for the most unfortunate class of our fellow citizens—a class among which our relatives—our even ourselves may ere long be numbered.

The general course of treatment pursued towards those insane persons, who are privately confined for the safety of their friends, is such as to irritate and perpetuate that insanity, which under a mild treatment, by persons who understood their management, might in some cases, out of ten be *entirely cured*. This result has been found by actual experience in Massachusetts and Connecticut. In one year out

of 41 admitted to the Hospital, 37 were cured. In another year out of 32, 29 were cured, 2 were much better, and the others improved.

The third annual report of the Massachusetts Lunatic Hospital has recently been submitted by the Governor to the Legislature of that State. It contains strong evidence of the good effects of the institution, in the case of the unfortunate sufferers of the unfortunate patients. Among them we find the following:—

"In one case, a man had been previous to his entering the institution, 28 years in prison—seven years he had not felt the authority of law, and many nights he had not had down from him the feeling. He had not been started for 28 years, and had been provoked and excited by the indifference of jailers to see the exhibition of his ravings. He is now remarkably calm, shaves himself twice a week—at public work sixteen others, and enjoys himself as well as his situation will permit. Another person, a violent maniac had been confined, caged and chained for years. It was then considered to set him free, and see how he would conduct himself. He immediately fell upon his brother, and tried to kill him with a halberd and pursued his sister with intent to kill her. When caged, he was naked and filthy; he now dresses neatly, is civil, amiable, freely with others other persons, and though insane, is perfectly harmless.

Another person had been insane 8 years, almost all of this time in jail and caged. He cut the throat of an inmate while sleeping in a cage, instantly killing it, and made an attack with a axe upon another man, at the same time. He is now inmate, but placid; keeps his bed in good order, takes his meals regularly, spends much time in reading and conversing with the inmates.

During the year there have been 251 patients in the Hospital, and on the management of this number of insane persons to accidents have occurred, endangering the lives of others or inmates. The fact is rendered more striking when we consider that *fifteen* persons have been admitted to the Hospital this previous to their entrance had actually committed homicide.

The beneficial effects of industry in the promotion of mental and physical strength, and the restoration of the suffer-

of reason, as highly recommended is the report. "Shut up in the halls or cells, they are unhappy, restless, and discontented, and in consequence less mild and docile. But when suffered to labor, they become cheerful and happy."

From the report it appears that not far from two thousand dollars were realized from the productive labor of the inmates from individuals who at home were generally kept in confinement for the safety of others: two such individuals could be seen ploughing peacefully and happily together in the field, when at home were kept in confinement.

It is to be hoped that no one who has a spark of philanthropy in his bosom, will any longer sleep over this subject, as one in which he feels no interest; and when the subject is again brought up in our legislature, that no interfering, curious policy will again cry out against the cost, when a tax of eight or ten cents on each individual in the State, would raise up an institution for which hundreds feel themselves, and tens of thousands for their relations and neighbors, would have constant cause for thankfulness.

Potomac Journal, March 4, 1836.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

We invite the attention of our readers to the call for a public meeting to be held in this town, which appears in our columns to-day.

The invitation is to all who feel an interest in the object proposed, and is signed by many of our most respectable citizens, and we believe expresses the feeling of the whole town.

The object proposed is the establishment of an Asylum for the Insane in this State, an object which we cannot doubt will be accomplished as soon as the people shall have known the facts that made it necessary and have had opportunity of indicating their wishes.

We know of no other diversion which the benevolent feelings of the times are taking which promises more practical good. It has been thought that all our duties to the in-

state were performed when they were so confined that they could do no harm to others. Experience is dissipating this delusion. That indifference which ignorance causes is now regarded criminal. Our duties to the insane are not all performed until the physical suffering is removed, and until kindness and attention restore them to reason and happiness. This can be done and has been done, not in a few, but in an overwhelming majority of cases. We cannot doubt that public sentiment in other parts of the State, when ascertained, will be as decidedly in favor of the insane as it is in this section.

Portsmouth Journal, March 12, 1856.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

We are happy to find a good spirit abroad on this subject. The liberal donation proffered in the following letter, speaks well not only of the liberality of the donor, but also shows the important light in which such an institution is held by the Philanthropists of the age.

PORTLAND, March 15, 1856.

Samuel E. Coxes, Esq.,

Sir: Observing your name on a list for calling a meeting of the citizens of Portsmouth and of the State, on the subject of a contemplated Asylum for the Insane, I take the liberty to address you.

My design is not in this communication to add anything to the claims of such an institution, an institution which would occupy such a high place among the benevolent enterprises of the day.

The *Portsmouth Journal* which has made me acquainted with the design, shows that its claims to such prominence are already well understood by yourself and your associates.

I have long felt a desire to act with the citizens of our native town and State in some useful, moral enterprise—and as I cannot expect to find a better opportunity, please accept my proffer of the annexed subscription rather as a proof of interest in the welfare of Portsmouth and of New Hampshire, than as contributing in any essential degree to

the advancement of an object which may require a hundred thousand for its completion.

If on sending together as you suggest, it should be thought advisable to prosecute the design of building an Insane Hospital in the State of New Hampshire, you may consider me a subscriber for a *Thousand Dollars* payable in April of next year, provided the sum you may think you need, shall be obtained during the previous term you may propose.

Respectfully,

HENRY GODDARD.

We trust that the above liberal contribution will be promptly followed up by those residents of our State, who have the means. Let the interest felt and manifested abroad be as important an enterprise, excite a corresponding interest at home. The cost of a suitable building possibly could not exceed thirty thousand dollars. We hope that the Legislature may assume the whole of the burden; but with a grant of twenty thousand from the State, we cannot for a moment doubt but that private munificence will complete the sum required.

After the building is once erected and furnished, the insane poor could be supported as cheaply in such an establishment as they are now in the several almshouses and jails where they are kept; and the expenses of the Asylum might be borne, (as are those of the Worcester Asylum) in part by the friends of private patients, in part by the towns to which insane paupers belong, in part by the counties which support those committed to jail by the court for insanity.

Portsmouth Journal, March 19, 1836.

News, Andover. — I rejoice to see the movement which is beginning to take place in regard to an Asylum for the Insane. I rejoice in the hope that in this thing, New Hampshire will determine not to be behind her sisters of New England. Let the knollings which are about being laid to the hickory wood of our legislature be turned into a flame, and we shall see that there is substance in the kind hearts of our hardy population to sustain the warm and permanent fire of benevolence.

Let them only be taught to think of the sufferings of hundreds of their fellow beings in the very midst of them, and let them be convinced how much may be done to alleviate or to remove those very severe sufferings, and they will

state, that while they may be slow to move in domestic spheres of philanthropy, they are not insensible to a call which comes from the clanking of chains in their very neighbourhood; from the woe and woe which such necessity has created in their very dwellings.

In addition to the facts or successful efforts in favour of the insane, published in your list, I wish you would publish the following from a late Paris paper.

MORAL MANAGEMENT OF THE INSANE.

The following striking account of a scene in the Retreat at Paris is extracted from a paper read at the Académie of Sciences, &c. the seat of the celebrated Pich, denouncing as one of his father's which deserved overlooking laws, from the wisdom, courage, and humanity which it displays.

Towards the end of 1816, Pich, after having many times urged the Government to allow him to make the question of the insane, but in vain, went himself to the authorities, and was much surprised and warmly advised the removal of this institution alone. Gradually a number of the committee, given way to M. Pich's arguments, and agreed to meet him at the Retreat. Gradually they interrogated those who were chained, but the state he received, and the confined sounds of wailing, shrieks, and clanking of chains, in the filthy and damp cells, made him recoil from Pich's proposition. "You may do what you will with them," said he, "but I fear you will increase their evil." Pich instantly commenced his undertaking. There were about fifty whom he considered might without danger to the others be unchained, and be again by rational means, with the sole precaution of having previously prepared the same number of strong restraints, with large straps, which could be tied behind the back if necessary. The first man on whom the experiment was to be tried was an English captain, whose name, as you know, as is well known in most parts of the world. He was thought to be one of the most feeble among them. His keepers approached him with caution, as he had, in a fit of frenzy, killed one of them on one spot with a blow from his forehead. He was chained more rigorously than any of the others. Pich turned his back on

attended, and calmly said to him, Papello, I will order your chains to be taken off, and give you liberty to walk in the court, if you will promise me to behave well, and before me first." "Yes, I promise you (said the wretch;) but you are laughing at me—you are too much afraid of me." "I have six men (said First,) ready to enforce my commands if necessary. Promise me then, on my word I will give you your liberty if you will put on this waistcoat."

He consented to this willingly, without a word. His chains were removed, and the keepers retired leaving the door open. He raised himself eight times from his seat, but still spoke no D, for he had been in a sitting posture so long, that he had lost the use of his legs. In a quarter of an hour he succeeded in mounting his balcony, and with halting steps came to the door of his dark cell. His first look was at the sky, and he cried out enthusiastically, "O how beautiful!" During the rest of the day he was constantly in motion, walking up and down the staircase, and moving about extolling his delight. In the evening he returned of his own accord into his cell, where a dinner had been he had been accustomed to, had been prepared for him, and he slept tranquilly. During the two succeeding years which she spent in the Bastille, he had no remnant of his previous passions, but even rendering himself useful by watching a kind of sobriety over the insane patients, whom he visited in his own fashion.

The next unfortunate being whom First visited, was a soldier of the French guards, whose only fault was drunkenness; when after he lost his self-command by drink, he became quarrelsome and violent, and the more dangerous from his great bodily strength. From his frequent excesses, he had been discharged from his corps, and had speedily disheartened his seven means. Degraded and weary so depressed him that he became matter in his language he belittled himself a liberal, and taught those who would not acknowledge his rank. After a furious struggle of this sort, he was brought to the Bastille in a state of great excitement. He had now been chained for two years, and with greater ease than the others, from having frequently broken his chains with his hands only. Once when he broke loose, he defied all his keepers to enter his cell, until they had each passed under his legs; and he compelled eight men to obey

this strange occasion. Pirel, in his previous visits to him, regarded him as a man of original good nature, but under excitement incessantly kept up by cruel treatment; and he had perceived, especially in unobtrusive his condition, which promise alone had made him more calm. Now he announced to him that he should be chained no longer, "and to prove that he had confidence in him, and believed him to be a man capable of better things, he called upon him to assist in releasing those others who had not reason like himself; and promised, if he conducted himself well, to take him into his own service."

The change was sudden and complete. No sooner was he liberated than he became affable, following with his eye every motion of Pirel; and receiving his orders with much address and promptness; he spoke kindly and reasonably to the other patients; and during the rest of life was devoutly devoted to his deliverer. And I can never have without emotion (says Paul's son) the name of this man, who some years after this occurrence entered with me the games of my childhood, and to whom I shall feel always attached."

In the next cell were three Prussian soldiers, who had been in chains for many years, but on what account no one knew. They were in general calm and ineffective, becoming animated only when conversing together in their own language, which was unintelligible to others. They were allowed the only consolation of which they appeared sensible—to live together. The preparations taken to release them alarmed them, as they imagined the keepers were come to inflict new severities; and they opposed them violently when removing their irons. When released they were not willing to leave their prison, and remained in their habitual posture. Either grief or loss of interest had rendered them indifferent to liberty.

Next them was an old priest who was possessed with the idea that he was Christ; his appearance indicated the reality of his belief; he was grave and solemn, his smile soft and at the same time severe, repelling all familiarity; his hair was long and long on each side of his face; he was pale, intelligent and resigned. On his being once taunted with a question that if he was Christ he could break his chains, he solemnly replied, "*Frastra tentatis Dominum tentare.*"

His whole life was a romance of religious excitement. He undertook on foot pilgrimages to Cologne and Rome; and made a voyage to America for the purpose of converting the Indians; his dominant idea became changed into mania, and on his return to France he announced himself the Saviour.

He was taken by the police before the Archbishop of Paris, by whose orders he was confined in the Bicêtre, as either impotent or insane. His hands and feet were loaded with heavy chains, and during twelve years he bore with exemplary patience martyrdom and constant sarcasms. Pinel did not attempt to reason with him, but induced him to be secluded in silence, directing at the same time that every one should imitate the old man's reserve, and never speak to him. This order was rigorously observed, and produced on the patient a more decided effect than either chains or the dungeon, he became irritated by this unusual isolation, and after hesitating for a long time, gradually introduced himself to the society of the other patients. From this time his actions became more just and sensible, and in less than a year he acknowledged the absurdity of his previous prepossession, and was dismissed from the Bicêtre.

In the course of a few days, Pinel released 55 maniacs from their chains; among these were men of all conditions and countries; workmen, merchants, soldiers, lawyers, &c. The result was beyond his hopes. Tranquillity and harmony succeeded to tumult and disorder; and the whole discipline was marked with a regularity and kindness which had the most favorable effect on the inmates themselves; rendering even the most furious more tractable.

Dorchester Journal, March 12, 1836.

The following notice we copy from the National Eagle, published at Cincinnati.

ALIAS FOR THE INSANE.—We publish, with pleasure, from the *Dorchester Journal*, the subjoined call for a meeting at Falmouth of those who are in favor of the establishment in this State of an Asylum for the Insane. It is signed by many of the most influential and respectable citizens of that town, without reference to party distinctions, and we trust it will be responded to by those of other sections of the State. Before

the action of our last legislature, we in common with several of our contemporaries, urged the importance—the necessity of more efficient action on the part of our legislators upon a subject so deeply interesting to every citizen in the community. The legislature broke up without doing anything, just as preceding legislatures had done, either from an apprehension, it is to be feared, that public sentiment did not call for their action, then from any settled feeling of indifference to a matter of such vast importance to the community. But we believe public sentiment will be found sound on this subject, and that the meeting in question, while it will go far towards developing it, will also focus the philanthropic object in view. Evidently there can be no nobler subject of legislation than that which would alleviate the sufferings and administer to the comfort and well-being of the unfortunate class which is now immediately to be benefited. It has been estimated that a building something on the plan of that of Worcester, Mass., could be erected in this State for twenty-five thousand dollars, which sum would include the purchase of about twenty-five acres of land, to be attached to the establishment for agricultural and horticultural improvement, for such patients as are able to labor, cultivating the grounds, erecting out-houses, &c. From official information communicated to the legislature in 1852, it appears that there were 180 insane persons in 141 rooms in the State, a hundred and three of whom were paupers. It was also estimated that these were supported at an expense of fifteen thousand dollars. If there are two hundred and fifty individuals of this description in the State, and we should think there must be at least that number, the expense of supporting them would be not far from the sum estimated as the cost of the building, at least twenty-five thousand dollars. There can surely be but one opinion among the people of this county respecting the importance and expediency of having an Asylum for the Insane in some central position, and we trust our representatives, of what ever party, will do what they can towards effecting so philanthropic an object. Cannot half a dozen individuals from this county attend the Portsmouth meeting?

Portsmouth Journal, April 2, 1855.

INSANE ASYLUM.

By a reference to our last page, it will be seen that the contemplated meeting on this subject will be held at the *McAuliffe Chapel*, in this town, on Wednesday evening next, at 7 o'clock. Gentlemen from other towns are requested to meet the Committee at the Chapel at 5 o'clock P. M.

The invitations which the committee have extended to gentlemen in a great number of towns in this State, have elicited a sympathy in the public feeling on this important subject highly gratifying to the friends of the Institution.

Public meetings have been called in several towns. The proceedings of the meeting at *Gilsum* are published on our first page. We have also received an account of a large and respectable meeting at *Derry* on Tuesday last, of which C. C. P. Gale was chairman, and Nathaniel Allen, Secretary: the subject was discussed by Dr. L. V. Bell. Among the resolutions introduced by James Thoms, Esq., and passed were the following:

1. *Resolved*, That we sincerely sympathize with the sufferings of the Insane, and are desirous that every reasonable effort should be made to afford relief to this unfortunate class of our community.

2. *Resolved*, That relief cannot be afforded by private charity; that it requires the interposition and aid of the State; that while every other class of society are protected and provided for according to their necessities, this unfortunate class of the community have hitherto been neglected.

3. *Resolved*, That an Asylum for the Insane should be established on liberal principles by this State; and that the Legislature of this State should make ample provision for such an establishment.

4. *Resolved*, That the Representatives of this town use their utmost exertions to effect this important object at the next session of the Legislature.

5. *Resolved*, That the citizens of the town of Portsmouth deserve the grateful acknowledgments of the public for their generous and spirited interposition in behalf of the Insane, and that we will cheerfully co-operate with them in any measures which may promote an object of so much importance.

6. *Resolved*, That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to Samuel E. Cones and others, the Committee who have called the public meeting at Portsmouth, on the first Wednesday of April next, to be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of this meeting.

7. *Resolved*, That similar copies be given to our Representatives as the basis of some action in our next Legislature.

Portsmouth Journal, April 9, 1836.

Remarks made at the meeting in Portsmouth, on the subject of an Asylum for the Insane.

Hon. ASAHEL GREENMAN addressed the meeting. He brought forward many curious and interesting facts respecting Insanity, and Insane persons, some of the causes of Insanity, and the mode of treatment of the Insane. He showed the necessity of constant kindness and affectionate treatment to overcome the disease, and how the present mode is at variance with that system. He was convinced of the necessity of an Asylum, and hoped that its establishment would be no longer delayed. One Man in his address, not worthily of particular attention, as tending to decrease the amount of Insanity; it is this: when an Asylum is once established in our State, it will be a place of resort for our physicians and medical students. Thence acquiring themselves with the various states and stages of the disease and modes of treatment, they will obtain more practical knowledge of the disease than they can now possess. This knowledge will enable them to cure many cases in their early stages, which otherwise might grow into confirmed Insanity. He said that he did not cast any reproach upon our State for the long neglect of the subject; it is a new war to our State, it is in fact a new subject. For even now there is but one State in the Union where the Insane were are provided for, Insane Hospitals exist in eight States—but they are for the benefit of those only who can find friends to pay for them—while those who are suffering in almshouses, and as paupers, who must need relief, must suffer on and die. Let us not at this time reproach ourselves or others, that the subject has been neglected, but let us now place our hands to the wheel, and not only hope that the work will be commenced this year, but also that

it will be speedily completed. We are told that there is a time for all things, and it is so to be hoped that this is the time for the important movement which now engages the attention of the friends of humanity in New Hampshire, the establishment of an Asylum for the Insane.

ROB. LEONARD BARTLETT next addressed the meeting.—In the course of his remarks, he said, that from the facts already before them, it could no longer be doubted that the sufferings of the insane in the State were great; that the malady was one which could be relieved or mitigated by proper remedies; that those remedies could be successfully applied only by means of a public institution for their cure, and that he would submit a remark or two on one view only of the subject—the bearing of the establishment of such an institution upon the administration of civil and criminal law. Our courts, he observed, have jurisdiction over our property—our character—our lives. Acts done or committed in one state of mind, might destroy property, character and life, while the same acts, unaccompanied with that state of mind which constitutes the malady, should draw after them none of those penalties.

He spoke of the ancient rule of law, by which all were made responsible, except the ratting inmate, or idiot in the advanced state of folly; and of the rule of the law, as mitigated by the present greater light of mental philosophy. He adverted to those classes and grades of insanity, where the understanding is perfect, but the senses deceive, or the imagination deludes, when the sufferer reasons correctly from false premises. The senses then serve as false beacons to the mind.

To other conditions of the malady, where the understanding may be perfect, and the senses perfect, but where, by reason of some organ, or morbid influence, the power and control of them is lost, they reason wrong from right premises. They are as a ship without a rudder. Volition has no control over their acts any more than over the pulsations of their arteries. He adverted to that class of the afflicted, whose derangement may be exhibited on a single subject, while perfectly rational on every other. That although the improved and humane principles of modern law do not hold persons responsible for acts done under the influence of such malady, the difficulty, the impossibility of making the nature

of this protection to the innocent intelligible to a jury, in a community where no light exists upon the subject, exposed every one to the danger of unjustly suffering the penalties of guilt.

Mr. B. remarked upon the want of all information upon this subject as the necessary result of the present treatment of the insane. No light comes from the dark recesses of their prison house, where even friends look not in upon them, and, if more humane the afflicted sufferer is turned loose, a homeless wanderer upon the cold charity of the world, every eye is averted from him; all "pass by on the other side," except the thoughtless—heartless children, who follow only to mock at his calamities. He spoke of a public Asylum as the only means by which information of the nature, character and evidences of this malady could be understood, even by those of the medical profession; and as the only mode of diffusing that information was through the community, which could give an assurance of a just administration of the principles of law applicable to such cases. That this would extend the means of detecting the existence of the disease in its early stages, and prevent hundreds of cases from terminating in fatal calamities to the sufferers or to his friends.

He spoke of the danger of conviction, and the infliction of the highest degree of infamous punishment upon the innocent, as not imaginary but real. That records of criminal courts show hundreds of cases, where persons have been convicted and executed upon the charge of crimes for which they were no more responsible, than the sleeping infant for its death. He alluded to a recent case in this State, as one in his solemn judgment, of that character. He spoke in terms of strong feeling, of this calamity, as one in which each of us was exposed.

Mr. B. called the attention of the meeting to the law of this State, which provides that where Grand Jurors refuse to be sworn, or the traverse jury convict a person charged with an offence, on the ground of insanity, that the court may be empowered to commit such person to prison, *"there to be detained till he or she shall be restored to his or her right mind, or otherwise be delivered by due course of law."* A sentence to imprisonment for life, because they had been guilty of no offence—and not to such humane imprisonment as the nonpareil, the burglar, the highway robber has provided for him, with clothing, and food, &c.

exercise and warm apartments, while the prisons for the guiltless insane, were the crowded, dismal dungeons of our country jails.

He spoke of the expense of \$20,000 for an Asylum as less than insequence on each individual in the State—less than a dollar to the taxable inhabitants, he compared the sacrifice of one fellow being to the personal system, as a sacrifice to the Moloch, *Arrière*, more horrible in its character than the localities offered by Pagans to their heathen idols. He appealed feelingly to the citizens of this State to redeem themselves from this reproach.

Dr. CHARLES A. CHILMAN, in addressing the meeting, was very happy to lend his voice and efforts to this noble object. He considered the present situation of the insane in point of comfort far below that of the brute creation: the poor insane are destined to dungeons and chains, and not infrequently hacked about to the lowest bidder for their keepings; he wretched wretches who would hardly be tolerated to look after even the worst of our species; that our reflections must be still more fearful when we remember that with the exception of a small and yearly decreasing minority, his victims are often struck down as shining marks from the ranks of the fair, talented and virtuous; that in this philanthropic age, and boasted land of liberty, while we had compassed sea and land to seek out objects of benevolence, the dungeons of the unfortunate insane had been passed heedlessly by, and he condemned to suffer as no criminal ever did suffer before: that the pathetic cases which had been so touchingly related by gentlemen that eve., and recently spread before the public in the prints of the day, were no fictions, but sad realities, indeed so far from being overstrained, that he did not believe that half had been told, and but for exciting their sympathies he could relate cases within his own observation that would more than corroborate them.

He did not consider that the past treatment of the insane should be a subject of reflection upon their friends, as these treatment no doubt was the effect of compulsion, resulting from personal fear and from an opinion that their condition was irretrievable and hopeless from the prevalent belief that insanity was a disease of the *spiritual* nature of man, and consequently beyond the control of remedial agents. He demonstrated however, that insanity was not a disease of the mind but of the body, if the contrary doctrine

were now a collateral and lesser of humanity, for if the mind could suffer it could die. He then passed over high caligories upon Spurzheim, Combe and others, for laying down so much light upon the necessary connection of mind and matter, and more particularly for having demonstrated by their skillful dissections of the brain, that insanity is in all cases from a lesion or disordered action of its structure; that we owed them a debt of gratitude for the very best and most scientific work upon the subject, leading to a more correct treatment of this terrible scourge.

He then stated that were having a correct theory, the treatment of course must be more correct. He considered the very best treatment for the insane to be the very reverse of what it had hitherto been: the iron which had entered their veins and entered their affections must be removed, the manacles which had galled their limbs, must be knotted off and demolished, and give place to well ordered homes, where affection and comfort should occupy the place of filthy misery and of savage brutality. He then gave some important statistical facts, drawn from a table at Hospital reports, showing that while under the old system not more than one in twenty of the insane were restored; under the treatment which had been adopted at regular Asylums, at least nine out of every ten had been restored to health, to their friends, and to all the enjoyments which render life desirable.

Key, Dr. Beaumont closed the discussion by a strong and eloquent appeal—claiming the establishment of an Asylum for the Insane, not only as a matter of expediency, but also as a matter of imperative duty. He spoke of the two great principles which are the acknowledged basis of treatment—love to God, and love to man. He said that every man who is in want and suffering is our neighbor—every insane person in New Hampshire is held to be his neighbor, who claims his sympathy and aid. He spoke most feelingly of the extreme moral anguish the unfortunate Insane must suffer from the cruel law necessarily pursued towards them for the personal safety of their best friends: they are sensible as every act of wickedness—these however by an individual war confined in the dreary cells of the Insane, who has not his disease more immediately stopped

upon him, by the consciousness of unkindness. He adverted with much effect to the case of King Lear, and the ancient Babylonian monarch. Dr. R. remarked that recent statistical returns show a great increase of cases of insanity within a few years, in England and in France—and the same causes to some extent existing in this country, will doubtless tend to similar results. As the means of giving them relief, he considered an Asylum for the the Insane one of the greatest blessings in the world—he had never viewed one without contemplating it as the footstool of the Son of God. Looper to delay the establishment of an Asylum he held to be moral turpitude. Is any one prepared, under the light which now exists, to say, I will let it rest another year, when we shall be better prepared—and thus let the intense sufferings of the Insane continue, and insanity increase among us? He happily adverted to the case of the Good Samaritan—and strongly exhibited the claim of the Insane, not only on the sympathy of the rich, but also upon every poor man; for under the distressing visitation of Providence, it was the poor man who would be peculiarly benefited by its establishment. He closed his remarks by an expression of gratification at being present on an occasion where all party and sectarian feelings are laid aside, and all are united to promote one of noblest objects in the cause of humanity.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted by the meeting, and at 2½ o'clock it adjourned without day.

Portsmouth Journal, April 3, 1836.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The recent measures calling public attention to the subject of an Asylum for the Insane, has revealed a state of public feeling more favorable to that object than was expected. From all quarters we hear the most encouraging accounts. Recently a large meeting has been held in Cheshire County. Meetings have also been held in Stafford, Exeter, Concord, Gilmanton, Stratham, Gifford and Portsmouth, have instructed the representatives to use their exertions to procure an appropriation from the Legislature to erect the proposed Hospital.

Letters from very many towns represent public sentiment as nearly unanimous upon the subject. Nothing very definite has been heard from Grafton County. But we have every reason to hope that that flourishing part of the State will not be wanting in sympathy and liberality which are wanting the entire part of the State.

We believe that all the newspapers are united in advocating this enterprise. Indeed as yet we have found it no cause being cited against it. Who then should not a measure so good which is universally approved by the people, and called for by justice and justice as well as convenience?

Portsmouth Journal, April 27, 1828.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

MEMORIAL ON THE SUBJECT OF AN ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

THE FOLLOWING MEMORIAL TO THE LEGISLATURE OF THIS STATE HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE SIGNATURE OF THE MEMBERS OF PORTSMOUTH. IT IS PUBLISHED IN THIS FORM THAT ALL MAY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EXAMINATION OF IT BEFORE PRESENTING THEMSELVES. IT IS A DOCUMENT DRAWN UP WITH MUCH CARE AND IS WORTHY THE ATTENTION OF EVERY ONE.

A COPY OF THE MEMORIAL WILL BE LEFT AT THE PORTSMOUTH ATHLETIC, AT THE HEMLOCK, BELLEVILLE AND THE BROWN'S READING ROOMS, AND AT S. WARD & CO'S STORE. FOR THE SIGNATURES OF THE FRIENDS OF THE IMPROVED ASYLUM.

MEMORIAL.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire in General Court assembled.

The undersigned citizens of the town of Portsmouth would represent, the anxious and ardent wish of the better portion of this State are such as to demand some new and successful opposition in their favor; that studies of innovation and remedy are within the power of the community that the legislature is the only public body, which can act efficiently in this respect.

and that there seems to be a special obligation on them to use the most generous exertions in behalf of this important and afflictive case of humanity. In respectfully soliciting the Legislature for the adoption of such a course, the undersigned would advert to some of the leading features, connected with cases of insanity. One of them relates to the number of persons among us, that are visited with that dreadful malady. By returns from other States and some sections in our own State, it is ascertained that one person in a thousand is suffering from that disease, at least in some of its grades. According to this estimate, the number of our insane, in proportion to the population of New Hampshire, would be about 290. Let us take another estimate. By the Selectmen's return on the first of June, last year, it appears that there were then eighteen insane persons in this town; and this number did not embrace the whole lot; yet this ratio would make the whole number in the State to be 600. The returns to the Legislature, at its last session, from its towns, made the number of the insane in them, to be 315. This proportion would make the whole number in the State to be 545.

The average of these computations would probably give with considerable certainty the appalling estimate of at least four hundred madmen in our State. This statement perhaps might be enlarged, as it is extremely difficult to obtain correct statistical information on this subject; since some cases of this malady may be hid, and hardly classed as such, and many, even severe cases, may be studiously concealed from public knowledge. Is not this number sufficient to awaken the humane interposition of the General Court?

In reply to this plea, it may be said, that the statement of numbers is no proof of any amount of aggravated cases; that insane persons are usually harmless; that heart-rending and violent instances are too few to demand legislative action. But here again statistical returns give us a most distressing answer. It is an actual fact, that there are now fifteen irretrievably, and absolutely distracted persons, and seven others partially insane or idiotic, in the almshouse in this town. This shows the enormous amount of proper cases of distraction, of the large number bereft of reason,

who are also bereft of friends and pecuniary resources. Four of the cases of insanity in our almshouse are of a most aggravated nature, where almost constant and severe confinement is deemed necessary. Two of these unfortunate beings have long been almost constantly endangered; one of them, says the superintendent, is "periodically taken out for air." There have also been reported to the State, from other towns, no less than seventy-six cases of maniacs, who are now confined in cages, cellars, garrets, out-houses and jails, indelibly lunatic, wretched and destitute; and some of them have been ornaments of society. In this age of enlightened benevolence, shall seventy-six poor wretches be deemed still to remain in their misery, and shall the hearts of christian statesmen manifest no solicitation, no consideration, no charity? How powerful then must be the appeal to legislative interposition, when it is considered, that there must be among us at least four hundred maniacs; that a very large proportion of them are paupers, thrown with all their shattered intellects on the mercies of the world; that at least one hundred of them are suffering from aggravated distraction in its most violent forms; that they have been, and still are, subjected to a bondage, even more horrible than their malady; an agonizing bondage, inflicted through miserable ignorance and a perverted judgment; a bondage that would be pronounced cruel to the most abandoned criminals.

The undersigned would also appeal to the sympathies of the legislature, on behalf of the insane, on account of the great and various miseries, to which they are subjected by their malady. They cannot speak for themselves. They have not sufficient consciousness or mental light to find their ways to halls of legislation. They cannot remove long enough to form a petition; and their judgment is too much impaired even to ask any one to plead for them. They can seek the legislative sympathy, only through the eloquence of their utter affliction. They are afflicted with a malady which is considered by many to be the utter dereliction of every claim of humanity, and to cut them off from the common sentiment of commiseration; a malady, which is too often viewed as a disgrace, a mortification, a curse; or as having a completely injured the powers of their minds, as to place

them beyond the consciousness of kindness, or of distress. Hence they are concealed from every eye to avoid awaking shame or giving offence; or because debarred just the power of affording or receiving pleasure; their names are no more breathed; their misfortunes are taken as the signal that none should henceforth care for their bodies or souls. In consequence of these prevailing impressions they usually experience the worst of ill treatment, they are denounced as not fit to be associated with the dogs of the street, or with the filthiest swine. They are looked upon, as smitten in wrath by the righteous judgment of Heaven; as beneath the mercy shown to felons, as doomed to the most awful privations, as insensible to the roughest visitings of cold and storms, as outcasts from the benignant smiles or cares of man, or the soothing tones of Christian solace and prayer.

This is the condition of at least seventy-six of our fellow-citizens and of how many more we know not. This is the treatment, shown to infuriate maniacs, even in our almshouses; not because their friends are unkind; nor, that they would not shrink at the idea of committing an act of inhumanity; but because they think, that no other treatment is consistent with their own personal safety; and that it cannot be unfeeling, because they believe it to be unfeilt. This very course of conduct pursued towards the insane, is the very means by which their malady becomes aggravated and confirmed; for when cleanliness, diet, temperature, care, kindness and comfort are neglected, the bodily health becomes of course more impaired, the brain more diseased, the mind more frantic, and incurable habits become fastened on the constitution. While the community shall continue to act as it has hitherto acted, it will continue to rivet insanity on all, who are visited with it, and constantly to increase all its loathsomeness and horrors.

Another feature of misery with the insane is that they are sensible to unkindness. They may reason wrong about certain points, they may have no control over their wills, they may have perpetual confusion, of ideas; but sensation is not destroyed, their "flesh will quiver where the steel is driven," their souls are not extinct; they are living sentient beings; they can weep in bitterness of soul; they writhes under their galling chains; they tremble at the wintry blast, and bind their hands of straw closer about them, as the

raging winds and driving snow visit their exposed, dark and comfortless cells. Though distracted in many respects, yet in others they can reason forcibly and ably; and it often happens that, after such sufferers are cured, they can remember all their woes and the keenest of them all is the recollection of unkindness. In their calm hours they have told of their anguish under the pelting of the storm and the laceration of these visits, but knew not how to avoid such torments, or find relief; and often, when a lucid mental ray shined the darkness of their prison house, no ear was near, or cautious, to hear their cries for mercy.

The insane are generally long lived. The vital principle seems to have an extraordinary tenacity where the intellect is shattered. The constitution, by habitual endurance, seems to be hardened against every assault. We have two insane persons in our almshouse who are more than 60 years of age, and one of them has been deranged 20 years. One of our inmates, now 64 years of age, has been distracted from his youth. Hence insane persons have not only the worst of all afflictions, and generally the worst possible treatment under them, but the greatest quantity of misery, the most dreadful prolongation of it that falls to the lot of mortals, under the dispensation of a righteous Providence. A prostrata, a raging fever, agonizing pains are hard to be borne, but they are short. The insane seems to be doomed to a longevity of agony. Here is a feature of his misery, that irresistibly commands us to labor for his cure, and at least to "pour oil into his wounds."

Another feature in his affliction is, that he is armed with a bitter and almost uncontrollable spirit of hostility against himself and others; he is daily in danger of destroying his own life, and that of some of his fellow beings. Should he be so unfortunate, as to commit homicide, he may be brought to a public trial, and perhaps consigned to the dreariness of a prison for security; and possibly, through an unintentionally erroneous course of judicial proceedings, he may be convicted of a wilful murder, and executed on the scaffold, and falsely registered on the annals of capital crime. Such are some of the powerful claims, which the insane have upon the humane interposition of the legislative authority of the State.

The numerous and painful evil consequences, that must flow from suffering the condition of the insane to remain unaltered, must powerfully appeal to the sympathies and consciences of the benevolent. Without a change of their treatment, there will be neither any alleviation, nor cure of their malady. It has been ascertained, by a full and fair examination, that cases of recovery among inmates seldom or ever, occur, during their confinement in jails, houses of correction, bridgeswells or any sort of solitary cells. It has been established, as an axiom among medical men, that it is essential to separate insane persons from their families, and from all family associations, in order to break up the peculiar irritability of their nervous temperament, and effect a revolution of their thoughts and habits; and the very fact of the private care of a inmate at his own home operates, as an insurmountable obstacle to his recovery. As almshouses are designed for paupers, they cannot, unless at a very great expense, make proper provision for the care or even the requisite medical treatment of inmates; and, under the present organization of things, men rather at their custody, than their recovery.

Without some generous and decisive change in the condition of inmates, without the interposition of public authority, there will not be simply the continuation, but the increase of an immense mass of private and public misery. Of the four hundred inmates among us, there will be few or no cures; there will be no alleviation, but rather an aggravation of their woes. They will linger out their lives in agony, at our almshouses, kindling no sympathies, and dispensing no comfort, except by their deaths; or, they will continue chained in some secure apartment of their own homes, filling with agony by their howling, and shrieks, and the dread spectacle of infuriate wildness and offensive wretchedness, the hearts of those, more most dear to them; or, perhaps so agitating the nervous sympathies of their relations, as to make their madness infectious. It will become more and more inveterate; and their loathsomeness and brutality will be more and more horrible. The miseries of their connections will be aggravated; and an increasing burden of expense will be imposed upon them. Without some bold

effort to relieve them, the sin of inhumanity must be charged the public; and in such a case, every maniac's shriek, that we could repress, must fill us with the deepest alarm at our responsibility. Where is the conscience, that can remain calm, under the sense of such an outrage on the feelings of the distracted, under the consciousness of having done nothing to remedy such evils, and under the guilt of holding back from themselves, their friends, and the public, blessed and benignant operation of minds and hearts, that would otherwise have awakened joy, love, gratitude and virtue, but now awaken only mortification, sorrow, regret and despair!

In proposing a remedy for these difficulties, the undersigned would now represent the advantages of a regular, public establishment for the reception and proper treatment of the insane. The benefits of asylums for them have been too well known to require any elaborate exposition or defence. An institution of this kind, established among us, would spread its arms of mercy over every maniac of our State, and over every family where such a sufferer might be found. It would not only seek his cure, but would do it gratuitously, if he were unable to meet the expenses incident to the remedies provided. It would manifest an increasing and benevolent guardianship over his person and over all his movements. It would encompass him with a course of perpetual watchfulness and kindness. It would conduce to the recovery of his reason; for the experience of such institutions already prove, that ninety in a hundred now cases yield to medical treatment, but, if it effect no cures, it will alleviate, to a very great extent, the miseries of the lunatic, horrible maniacs, who have been confined in chains, on being admitted to proper asylums, released from their manacles and fetters, and treated kindly, and have become gentle, comparatively happy, and even useful; and have been rendered susceptible of the instructions and exhortations of christianity. Asylums have indeed accomplished unexpected recoveries even of inveterate and most furious cases of insanity; and their introduction will of course afford to every disordered mind a chance of recovery, and the certainty of real alleviation. It therefore sheds its mercy, not only on the maniac himself, but on his friends and the community, by dispensing to them with new and

and pour the precious riches of his intellect and virtues. Such asylums aid the cause of medical science, in relation to all mental diseases, and impart to our medical practitioners eminent skill in the treatment of a malady, demanding above all others, the highest efforts of human intelligence, and the most tender and enlarged benevolence of the human heart. Such asylums are not only among the most merciful institutions of humanity, but among the most enlightened systems of political economy; being not only among the best, but among the cheapest modes of providing for the insane; reducing the cases of the malady by cures, and taking care of the patients, at a more moderate expense, than can possibly be done, either privately or at an almshouse. It is estimated that, for about eighty dollars a year, an insane person can be maintained at an asylum, but that, upon an average, it will cost double that sum to support him elsewhere. Who then can doubt of the necessity and expediency of an asylum, that can thus save many thousands of dollars annually to the State, and moreover can effect an inestimable alleviation of mental misery, and spread around new joys over very many afflicted families in our State?

The undersigned, in presenting this memorial, cannot but feel, that it is the duty of our legislature most energetically and liberally to interpose their patronage on this subject.

What is the object of government? Is it not to protect individuals in the enjoyment of their rights, to shield their persons, as well as their property, from injury, &c.; to devise ways and means for the alleviation of human suffering; as well as for the extension of public prosperity? Now has a man no personal rights, demanding protection, because he is deprived of his reason? Have any private persons just authority to confine madmen as they please, to deny them every comfort, and to doom them to every severe punishment, without the special interposition of the civil authority? By the English law, the king is the guardian of lunatics; and not only preserves their lands, but provides for their custody, and incorporates his authority to prevent all abuses incidental to private custody. The guardianship and benefit of the insane seem to be admitted features and obligations of every good constitution.

Nor can any one reasonably doubt of the power of a free government to make legislative provision for the insane.

Such a course not only falls within the aim and jurisdiction of civil authority, but must ever form one of the chief features, of its benevolent obligations, and one of the most brilliant results and decorations of civil liberty. Nothing can exceed the beautiful character of that administration, which not only dispenses justice, but mercy everywhere; and that does all in its power to relieve personal suffering, as well as to protect personal rights. Besides, ours is a republican and popular government. The voice of the people is the voice of sovereignty. Now there seems to be but one feeling throughout the State, in relation to the claims of the insane; and legislative action on this point seems to be but natural and necessary response of the the public will: a response which must be-quick, warmly, and unanimously, especially as unobscured by the existence of even the slightest shadow of any constitutional restriction.

If these positions be true, and they cannot be controverted, can it be consistent with enlightened, liberal and humane legislation to disregard the loud appeals that are made to it by the distresses of the insane? If for that class of sufferers an appropriation should be made, it would be most just and equitable, that it should be made by the authority of the State for the sufferings of the insane who are a common concern; especially inasmuch as many of them are paupers; and private relief will not alleviate, much less heal their malady. They have claims on every individual of the State in his Christian and civil capacity to do something for them. None among us are feel exempted from this demand of humanity. An appropriation by the State would be less oppressive, as well as most equitable; it would be as light as to be such. An actum, costing thirty thousand dollars, the extent of the sum required, would be less than a dollar on each taxable individual and less than five-pence on each individual of the State. An appropriation by the legislature would be the most honorable mode of relieving the requisite amount; for all our citizens seem to be under equal obligation in this respect; and none should shrink from his duty, to impose a heavy burden on the affluent, and thus induce them to do with their wealth that which even the poor are solemnly bound to do in their poverty.

A strong consideration in favor of legislative obligation arises from the benefits which asylums bring to the insane, from their chances of recovery. Insanity is not a disease that actually injures the soul. That, besides intemperance, amidst the most furious distraction, and is the same ethereal spirit, that God created, uninjured, unsoiled, except by sin. All its other anxieties, and wanderings, and horrible imaginings, and "chimeras dire" amidst insanity, flow from diseased physical organization, from some morbid state of the organs of the brain. All these are usually within the power of medical cure; and nothing but death should ever discourage us from diligent and increased efforts to restore reason to the madman's mind. We must all therefore despair of doing our duty faithfully to the distracted, unless we submit them to the vigilant and merciful power of an asylum, where healing efficacy, under heaven, is the most sure, on which we can depend.

There is another department on this subject, that calls for legislative action, and it is an intensely interesting one, touching important cases of medical jurisprudence. Government is bound, as far as possible, to watch over the personal safety of each member of society. Every one deprived of reason, is liable not only to the commission of personal assaults but of the offense of homicide; and the civil authority therefore is, in some degree, responsible for not properly guarding such an insane person, and for not endeavoring to restore him to such a state of mental and moral consciousness, as to make him no longer dangerous. Now, how can a State so effectually do its duty in this particular, as by founding an asylum for placing such insane persons, not in a cruel, but in a merciful custody, and by employing the best medical means for their restoration? The public safety seems to require this course; mercy to the insane seems to demand it; that he may be spared from the horrors of homicide, though committed involuntarily, and from the sad retribution, which the present statute on the case would now inflict upon him, if betrayed into such an act; for, though it would be followed by an immunity from punishment, could his insanity be proved; yet would he have a constraint, more than that of the most abandoned felon, a constraint that would "detain him in prison till re-

stored to a right mind, or otherwise delivered by due course of law."

Our State should be respectfully urged to the duty of legislative action, in relation to the insane, from the example of other States, several of which have evinced if their duty, interest, constitutional obligation, and highest expediency, to make generous appropriations for insane asylums; and they have received the warm approbation of their constituents and the community, and have given able proofs of enlightened christian principles and enlarged philanthropy. If our State will not follow such examples, very few of our maniacs will ever be restored to reason; and the community as the families of the insane must be deprived of the valuable services of many bright intellects and benevolent hearts, that would otherwise be eminent, public and private blessings.

The duty of the State will be more apparent, if we consider the characters of those, who are most likely to fall victims to distraction. They are the intellectual, the cultured, the sensitive; those, who have the most brilliant faculties and delicate feelings; those whose mental energies are used upon the stretch, and whose moral sensibility is the most tenderly alive; those, on whom calamities fall with the heaviest load, and who are the least able to sustain themselves under the pressure of adversity. The brightest faculties are the most likely to become dim; the tenderest heart is soonest broken; the most resplendent lights of society most easily suffer a disastrous mental eclipse. Such are the most common subjects of insanity; and the consequences of such violations, in their loss of usefulness, in the distress produced among friends, and the awful hazards of their destructive, uncontrolled passions, and almost universal propensity to suicide, make them most eminently the peculiar subjects of the protection, guardianship and mercy of the State.

In urging an appropriation for an Insane Asylum we must also regard the benefit of such a school for medical practitioners in relation to all cases of insanity. The duty of the legislature to act with promptness and liberality on this subject also arises from the fact, that nowhere have we other hope for relief and comfort. No dependence can be placed on private beneficence; and the asylums, which already exist in other places, are so full, that only a small portion of the insane of our State could find access to them.

One other principle still remains to urge legislative interposition in behalf of the Insane. It is founded, not simply on the claims of humanity, not simply in the voice of the multitude, speaking with resistless eloquence from every part of our State—but on that *Christian* code, which presents to us every Insane person in our State as our neighbor, who addresses us with a pathos and authority, that seem to disarm us of all objections and excuses; whose *rejected* plea will bring mercy on him, and on the whole community, but whose *rejected* plea may be followed by some sad retaliation, and perhaps by the perpetual defeat of his imperious claims on legislative justice and mercy. In view of the above, the undersigned would respectfully solicit such an appropriation as will accomplish the object, for which this memorial is presented—the founding of an Asylum for the Insane in the State of New Hampshire.

Portsmouth, N. H., May 7, 1836.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

Message, Editors:—It does seem to me, that a good Providence has at once removed almost the only obstacle in the way of our having in this State, an Asylum for the Insane. That obstacle was the expense. It was feared that many of the Representatives might not feel willing to vote for the erection of the Asylum, lest their constituents should complain of the heavy State Tax which must be assessed in consequence.

The large sum of money, however, which this State will shortly receive as her dividend of the Surplus Revenue of the United States, will render a State Tax wholly unnecessary: And I, for one, can imagine no better or nobler purpose, to which a portion of this money can be appropriated, than the erection of a building, and the establishment of an institution, whose object it is to accommodate the unfortunate *Insane*, and especially the *Insane Poor*, with a suitable home, and suitable treatment, blessings which are now denied to them from the necessity of the case; inasmuch as there are no places among us which are fit for them; nor can they be suitably attended, while they single

with the society of the busy, the thoughtless, the selfish world.

I should have been, for my own part, in favor of a State Tax or a State Loan, for the whole sum wanted, in case no surplus were to be divided. I am in favor of the object, and wish to see it prosper, by all means. But this unexpected income seems to be sent on purpose to take away the only unpleasant aspect which the thing presented, and leaves it so easy, that it is only necessary to say we will have it, and we shall have it.

I presume no person will object to this method of using the money. No improvement or benefit could be more clearly for the public good. The liberality and humanity of the State can in this way be exhibited to best advantage and the unfortunate Insane be placed where they can be made comparatively comfortable, and in many cases, sent back to their right minds, to their families and friends.

I wish, gentlemen, that you, and all the other editors in the State, would notice the subject frequently for a few weeks to come, and thus arouse the People to groups, and vigorous, and energetic measures, to secure the great benefit of an Asylum for the Insane in New Hampshire. In so doing, you will promote an excellent object, while you also oblige.

Yours, &c.,

PHILIP SMITH.

Portsmouth Journal, July 20, 1854.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

Rever. Editors:—I am sorry that some neighboring editors mistake my meaning, as they certainly do, when they suppose me to make the Asylum costless out of the Surplus Revenue.

I proposed no such thing. So far from it, I should very much approve of the editors' plan, viz. to have an act establishing the Asylum, and appropriating a good round sum for its erection, passed when first the General Court gets together. And I have already said, that I should be willing to help

pay a State Tax for the object. But having seen in some paper, some time since, a fear expressed, that the General Court might not be willing to lay a State Tax for the purpose, I regarded the dividend of the surplus revenue as a providential loan, coming just in time to do away with the only difficulty in relation to the whole matter. I rejoice that the editors of that paper, who go with their whole heart into whatever cause they espouse, agree with me and with you, in the ardent desire to see the *Asylum for the Insane* completed. I would by no means wish to see this important subject mingled with the politics of the day, and lost in the din of party strife—nor would I connect it, improperly, with any other matters.

Sensible and well informed men, of all parties, and of all sects, desire to have this important charity go forward: and he who would willfully or carelessly throw obstacles in its way, deserves a severe reproof.

It may, notwithstanding, be a question, whether the surplus, when our State gets it, can be better applied than by devoting it to this very object.

Look at it one moment. Call the money, if you please, a *deposit*, in the hands of the State. If it lie idle in the Treasury, it is useless. If it be taken to pay our State expenses, the Governor's salary, the Representatives' pay, and so on, there will be a strong temptation to increase salaries, to prolong sessions, and do other things no wiser than these. If it be loaned to banks, they may break; if to individuals, they may never pay. If you *divide it* among the people, you offend them, however you do it. For, if you divide it according to numbers, to every man his dollar, you displease the rich: if according to taxes, you offend the poor.

But the *Asylum* is truly a State concern, in the best sense. And if the money, or a part of it, be *loaned* to build it, the thing will *bear equally*. When pay-day comes, (and it may come) the people, according to the property they hold, must pay a State Tax to repay the United States their loan, or deposit, or whatever it is called. And this will be equal; if I understand that equality.

PUBLIC SPIRIT.

Pennsylvanische Journal, Aug. 13, 1836.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

We are very much gratified to notice the very general interest which the project for the relief of the Insane of New Hampshire, has excited throughout the State. Almost every paper we receive, contains articles on the subject. Letters from many sections of the State express a decided conviction that the people, wherever the subject has been presented, are unanimous in its favor. Still much is to be done. There are towns and counties where the the public attention has not been awakened. This was the case in Hillsboro' till within a short time. Now it appears that this county is alive to the work. We herewith present to our readers an extract from an address to the people of that county, which is equally well adapted to some other sections of the State. Will not the friends of benevolence in Strafford diffuse information in that County?

How is this? whence this spirit in a cause which has usually, religion and public policy unitedly approved?

If you have not some good and efficient reasons for the course you as a community have pursued, if you are not satisfied that you are acting, or rather continuing, as duty and interest demand of you, heedless to some facts in regard to the insane which are presented for your careful investigation and reflection; for the consideration of men who feel that there may be error in not instructing themselves in what their duty is in this regard, as well as in not doing what they are satisfied the good of society requires. If there has been a lamentable indifference on your part to all public neglect of this subject, it fortunately happens that the day for vigorous, decided, general and successful action has not passed by. After long delays and doubtful struggles even to get to such, as we believe, favorable ground, the question will be presented at the November term meetings. *Is it expedient for the State to grant an appropriation to build an Insane Hospital?* That every intelligent voter, after a careful and honest examination of the facts which have been brought to light, will feel bound to deposit in the ballot-box his decided Yes, we believe, for the following amongst many other reasons which could be adduced;

1. In this State there are reported officially insane 312 human beings who have been afflicted during all intermediate periods from 2 weeks to 9) years, and averaging more than 13 1-2 years of derangement to each person. A part of the population has not been heard from, (and we regret to say has more than its proportion of this neglect) which if proportionably afflicted, would make the whole number of the insane 432!

2. Of these 312 are actual lunatics, 81 are known to be confined in cages, cells, chains, strong rooms, in jails, garrets, barns, &c., &c., and if the whole State be judged in the same ratio as that heard from, more than 100 are thus shut up in cold, darkness, nakedness, and shall we say it in this land of plenty? too probably at times in want!

3. These insane are now utterly hopeless, as far as a prospect of cure is regarded, and it is hardly possible that even amelioration of their dreadful condition can be made under present circumstances. Nor is the public adequately secured, as the records of one course will prove, against the danger and violence of the uncontrolled maniac.

4. About one-half of the insane are now maintained by their own means and friends, and one-half by the public as paupers. Supported in the wretched state they now are, in almshouses, "let off at auction," too frequently to the basest of society, and their actual cost by two distinct returns to the legislature, is near \$80 per annum, or \$1.50 per week to each person. This includes their bare subsistence merely, no medical or moral management being practicable, even if appropriated. Neither does this estimate include the charge to the public or to friends, of the support of those dependent on those insane, but now necessarily thrown on other hands.

After looking "on this picture, look on this."

5. In the insane hospitals of the U. S. now in operation, FIVE-SIXTHS of all who have not been lunatics more than one year are cured, and more than ONE-HALF of all who are received are discharged recovered, are rendered safe, decent, contented and capable and willing of doing useful labor, enough to relieve the public of a portion of their cost and with the highest advantage to themselves in body and mind? Their

friends and relatives are also relieved from an immense weight of care and anxiety and often danger.

2. The cost of those at the public lunatic hospital in Mass., if the annual report of the trustees can be relied upon, will be, when the present arrangements are continued, less than \$2 weekly for each, including every item of support, attendance, treatment and incidentals. It is also demonstrated by facts, that in this State, taking into view certain valuable arrangements discovered and recommended there, the same advantages can be secured at 50 per cent. less, leaving the amount no greater than is now expended for bare subsistence.

3. It is also stated, and the reasons for this conclusion laid before the public in the jointed Report to the Legislature, — that every competent man may judge for himself whether the facts are so or not, that the expense of erecting, furnishing and galling (also operation an insane hospital for 120 or 150 patients, (as large as that at Worcester) whose cases from their recovery or their deaths are most pressing, would be not more than \$25/100 of the outside; — a sum, the interest of which would be \$1 per year. If borrowed on the credit of the State, \$1000, just the amount for the last fifteen years actually given to the Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Hartford, for the benefit of the comparatively insignificant number of these unfortunate of our community. If raised by tax, the entire principal will be rather more than four and sixpence to each voter, but not quite a subsistence to each individual. If accomplished from the proceeds of the deposited surplus fund, which it would seem has almost fallen to us for this purpose, it would require overfall of its interest for a couple of years.

Are these facts? Let every of course of New Hampshire examine, and if he does so, he cannot but give his sanction and vote to a measure, which if it fails at the next election, fails forever in all human probability, as far as a vast majority of voters now on the stage, are personally interested. If in the inscrutable dispensations of an all-wise Providence, any of them should be doomed to be victims to the "insane spirit" of insanity! If this scheme, after five or six years maturing, is rejected, twenty years will not pass it on the ground of late examples.

Providence Journal, Sept. 5, 1826.

INSANE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Of the 200 families within this State, about 200 are paupers, and now supported at the expense of the towns or counties to which they are chargeable. The others are supported by themselves, or their friends, with perhaps occasional assistance. The latter class may receive some portion of kindness and attention, for the claims of kindred and friendship may overcome the deep rooted prejudice and aversion so generally entertained towards the insane. But we cannot conceive of any situation so utterly miserable—so full of unalleviated suffering, and yet so devoid of every thing which can alleviate it, as that of the insane pauper. A burden upon the community, and an object of fear to all within his reach, who take charge of him! In some few cases natives of humanity may induce; but will he not generally become the victim of those who will take him for the least compensation, whose only object will be money? The maintenance of a human being sold at auction to the highest bidder. Dollars and cents wrung from human suffering, and in proportion to its intensity! such have been the facts, and what could be the consequences?

We propose by illustration of the condition of the insane to present a few cases of the treatment of those who now are or have been confined in this State.

There is a woman now living within a few miles of this town who has been confined 25 years in a narrow box or cage, chained to the floor, without chair or table, or even a bed, and never once leaving her place of confinement in all this long period!

A married female in a neighboring county was confined by her husband in an unfinished part of his dwelling house, during the severest part of the winter of 1855. She was allowed no fire to warm and little clothing to protect her from the inclemencies of the season. The biting winter blasts eddied through her apartment, and the snow drifted in at every crevice. Here she remained, calling on every passer by for relief in most piteous tones, until her hands and feet were frozen to an alarming extent, and that neighbors interfered to preserve her life. At their entreaty she was removed, and chained in a corner of the kitchen,

where she died during the last winter without medical attendance — without nursing or assistance — unlifted even upon her death bed!

There are cases of *worried females* still under the duellings and protection of their husbands, where affection might be supposed yet to exist and to alleviate their sufferings as far as consistent with personal safety. Here are manifold inducements to kind treatment, and yet are not such cases alleviated? It may, indeed, be all necessary, and any case more pain to the person who inflicts than to the one who suffers, but is it not radically wrong that there should be a necessity for such treatment at all?

But in most cases all inducements to kind treatment are removed, and what pen can describe their situation or suffering? Without friends to care for or protect them — subjects of overcast and fear to all, are there not strong temptations to cruelty, and a few considerations to restraint?

Hitherto these qualities have been practised from ignorance and prejudice; not from inhumanity, and are the subject of pity rather than blame. But now the people are awaking. From every corner of the State unthoughted reforms are issued. Every-where is the question asked, cannot this burden be removed, and this suffering alleviated? If cruelty has been hitherto necessary, shall it be necessary any longer?

*Newest Gazette,
Pottsmouth Journal, Oct. 15, 1836.*

INCOME HOSPITAL.—The returns, so far as received, give a small majority in favor of an Income Hospital; although it is probable from the general character of the returns from the interior, that the agricultural towns will go against it. The individual tax for this purpose would be very inconsiderable, and the narrow policy of the small towns in refusing to tax themselves, as they say, to support the income of the large towns, is very injudicious, and founded on wrong premises. However singular it may appear, it is the Farmer and the laborer that are to receive the largest proportion of the benefit of such an institution. This is clearly demonstrated by the following table of occupations of the inmates of the Hospital at Worcester, as appears by

a recent report. The occupation of the 259 male inmates were as follows:

Common laborers 56; Farmers 52; Manufacturers 18; Shoemakers 19; Seamen 16; Teachers 13; Carpenters 10; Merchants 8; Machinists 3; Blacksmiths 6; Tailors 4; Printers 3; Paper-makers 2; Clothiers 3; Millers 2; Calico-printers 2; Calico-makers 2; Bakers 2; Stevedores 2; Stone-cutters 1; Custom-maker 1; Cooper 1; Harness-maker 1; Tanner 1; Pedlar 1; Carrier 1; Bricklayer 1; Clergyman 1; Lawyer 1; Physician 1; Vagrants 3; Total 259.

Let not Farmers after reading this, say that they do not wish to tax themselves for the support of the insane of the large towns, when in fact it is evident to every one, that such to common believers, they will come in for the largest share of the benefits of such an institution.

Dorchester Journal, Nov. 19, 1835.

INSANE HOSPITAL.

Since the piece on this subject on the opposite page was in type, we have received information verbally, which shows a greater strength in favor of the Hospital than the first returns promised.

In Grafton County, though the general character of the returns were against the hospital, we find some towns unanimous in its favor. Somersworth, Milton, Oskow, in the county of Strafford, voted also in favor. Besides, in many towns, the returns from which were against the project, we learn that a large majority are in favor of relief to the insane. Many believing that there would be no danger of losing the question, did not think it an object to vote. Our impressions are, that on the meeting of the Legislature, a very considerable part of the votes will be found in favor and also an efficient majority of the representations.

In the town of Rice for instance, the vote stood 19 to 23. From conversation with many from this town, and from its character, we have no doubt the general opinion is in favor. In the town of Hamster, the vote stood 24 ayes and 21 noes. We cannot believe that this town is in opposition. It would prove him little for the character of the vicinity of Dart-

mouth College to manifest this result; 24 votes in favor.

In many towns we are informed a new zeal and spirit is awakened. The progress of popular opinion on this subject may be slow, but it is sure. The project will eventually succeed—and we believe at the approaching session.

Portsmouth Journal, Nov. 17, 1836.

THE BRASSA BROTHERS:—GAY, HILL, in his message, observes that the question put to the people "may be and probably was understood that the State was exclusively from its own treasury to erect and support the hospital and that on this view it would have been surprising that it received so large an affirmative vote." He also expresses the opinion, that the people would have given a more decided expression in favor, had the question been—"Shall the State grant an appropriation in aid of the object?" He goes on to intimate that there is no doubt but the people would grant from time to time temporary aid in so laudable a public charity.

The question we take it is now settled, that the Hospital is to be erected. We come to this opinion, from the increasing interest which the people of New Hampshire manifest on the subject. Every year since it was first proposed, there has been a constant and regular accession of friends. From being a small minority, they are now strong and confident. The executive of the State, and probably a majority in our legislature, are in favor of the appropriation. We come to this opinion because it will require no tax upon our citizens. A small part, a very small part of the interest on the funds from the Treasury of the United States will be needed. We come to this opinion because both sound economy and benevolence demand the work.

The true and proper course for the State to pursue is, to erect the proper building, and there stop the appropriation. The Hospital should support itself. Let the ordinary expenses be borne by those who receive the benefit. The building would cost from 20 to \$50,000, a sum which the State would cheerfully appropriate for so desirable an object.

We may be premature, and the object be accomplished, not at this session, but at the next. It is indeed desirable that there should be no delay; and we trust our present legislature will not leave their successors to discharge this important duty.

And if any towns in its favor have been misrepresented by their votes, now is the time for them to make their voice heard in the Legislature.

As for relying upon private charity to effect the object, it is out of the question to raise a large sum from individuals. And what propriety is there in asking hundreds of dollars from benevolent individuals to save a few cents to each of the citizens of the State? The difference between an appropriation of 20 and 20,000 dollars, can surely be felt by the citizens. What voter is there who would not cheerfully pay 25 cents if he could but restore one lunatic to reason? And who that has examined the subject fully does not know that an asylum would be a blessing to hundreds now in abject suffering?

Portsmouth Journal, Dec. 3, 1836.

THE TRUTH AND A DAY DREAM.

Go with me through our State; not, however, to indulge the feelings of satisfaction with which we look upon her fruitful fields, the cattle upon a thousand hills, her well filled granaries, and the cheerful homes of her happy yeoman, nor to feel ourselves enchanted with the grandeur of her scenery, her extensive forests, her sparkling streams, her granite-capped mountains, nor to bless God that we are sons of New Hampshire, when the sturdy and the healthy, the ruddy and the beautiful stand before us. Alas! no. Let us go on the errand of mercy, which turns from the bright and happy to seek out the forgotten ones—those who have no friend, no hope—those who are hidden from sight, doomed to one long dark night of despair.

Are there any such? Stop with me for a moment at that house upon the hill side, on the right of the road before us. The sun shines brightly upon the roof, and the birds sing merrily among the trees which surround it. Yet there is one whom we should visit; her room almost reaches us where we stand. Enter with me. See a wife, a mother, as a wild beast in a cage! The bars of her prison are worn smooth by her ceaseless struggles to free herself. Hear her cry! "Mary, Mary, my child, let me out!" She thus cried for years, and her voice has become a familiar sound

—so familiar that it ceases even to weary. But she is fed pretty regularly, and sometimes spoken to!

The town now rising before us looks prosperous and thriving. See its hundreds of houses into which wealth has poured all the luxuries of life; see, rising among them the steeples of the churches, where the Deacon commands to bind up the brokenhearted, to set the prisoner free, to offer pardon. In one of these houses an elderly lady has been chained by the leg for eighteen years. But we will stop at the jail itself; a man is there chained whom we must look at again. Poor old man! He was once rich, prosperous, the owner of that once beautiful mansion on the left. What steals all his property now? It has been taken from him, and he is thrust aside to wait for death. Have you ever seen such a painful sight? His hair, white as ever, matted on the head of this ancient patriarch, knotted and tangled, matted with his beard, has covered up all the face, his looking-eye stare is seen. His nails have grown like birds'-claws and his voice is changed to a hoarse growl. See the door of his bond is filled with holes — his head has been thrown to him as to a dog. Let us get away from this sight.

We now enter this Abolition. There are but two or three in Bradford now. It were better not to look into that cell, for the poor woman in it is not always fit to be seen; run to the next. If a lock and a slide in the door, for the keeper to look through, and to pass on the man's head, a very small gaol window, not glazed, stopped with a piece of board. "Is this young man always kept here nothing to do, nothing to think of, in solitude and darkness?" No wonder that he is crazy!" "Well, what else could we do with him; he is very noisy and would disturb the house; we take him out to air sometimes. But it is not our fault; his friends pay us for keeping him. He is not a pauper."

In this rapid sketch we can but glance at a few of the scenes of almost suffering, suffering into the very soul, which we know exist in this State. We cannot adequately describe the sufferings heaped upon the female. We can but say — is that out-house — is this garret — or the cave hard by, sleep for the very prison, are there men, — quail, maverick, bully, naked. The robes of kindness is none more to wash their ears, nor the link of sympathy to warm their hearts. In cold and hunger, and darkness must they live on. I have heard of one poor creature who escaped from the cellar in which he had

been for years — once more he felt the warm beams of the sun, the breeze again fanned his cheek, again his eye wandered over the beautiful face of nature—but in a few hours he was caught and thrust back again to his damp cell, there to shroud his time.

Oh even now rings through my ears, the cry of the poor idiot boy, "Father, Father!" It was one of those cold stormy nights, when wind, and sleet, and hail combined, make the traveller seek for the first shelter. I was hospitably entertained, but even through the live-long night were my chambers broken by that cry rising above the howlings of the storm — "Father, Father!" In the morning, directed by the sexton I found him; he was tied in a log-pen, in the farthest corner of which was a little straw, but it was then nearly covered with sleet and snow. Poor child, doubtless he is now released from his earthly sufferings!

Again, again, is borne towards me the scream of the young man who dreads the Evil One, who shudders at the thought of malignant sin. His once smooth and lofty forehead is gathered in knots, his cheeks are pale and sunken, and his eyes restlessly look around for one sign of hope. His father lifts his hands towards Heaven, exclaiming, "What can I do? I am poor, O God, enable me to keep this beloved one from the almshouse—take him rather to thyself. My poor boy! I can do nothing for you and others will not."

These are not exaggerations. They are faithful pictures, true to the very life. Reader do you doubt it? You cannot, you cannot. There are over three hundred inmates in New Hampshire. You know the nature of the malady, you know how vital a large number is exposed from the very necessity of the case, for what can the poor man do with the raging maniac? Knowing this, will you turn a deaf ear to their cry? will you brush away the tear and forget the sufferings of the inmate, and this too with the means of relief in your hands? Are you a father—the little ones whom you cherish, who now turn their laughing eyes upon you, who now twine themselves so closely about your heart—look to them and ponder upon the question where shall future years find them—over whose household is there a shield laid, that the troubled spirit may not enter? But I hear the exclamation—away with considerations that apply only to one's self; we are all children of one family—the which I would wish done for my own, will I

do for others; it is not hard heartedness but a want of reflection that has kept us back.

These are scenes of horror—enough to shock the heart. Let us turn to fiction for relief; let us drink on the imagination for something to soothe us; let us devote something that may excite us to think on the subject with composure.

I see before me spread out a highly cultivated farm, undulating over with red dale, swarded by corn field and meadow; the waving grain rising up to the very verge of a fruitful garden. The river sweeps by its banks, and the light clouds of summer hang over the whole. The ever-rolling wave as it triumphs o'er the festival for the future—a globe and colossal building which rises up in the world. There its glory is written, —I saw in those troubled-joint and in its price."

Let us enter. There is the wife and mother whom before we saw in the cage. She is neatly dressed; busy at her work; there is even a child playing upon her lap. "What pleasure you my friend?" Pleasure now; who I shall go home in a few weeks well and happy. But are you used to this place? Ah! no, no; but I have a fine trial and daughter at home; how thankful they will be to see me. I shall be glad to see the wife with them, I shall have my own child at the bedside?

"They have taken away the child," cries another, I can walk now, I can do good now. Sometimes I am good but sometimes a cloud of darkness rolls so soon my mind; like the breaking in of many waters. Then I do not know what I do—but I am cruel too. I am as weak as a travelling child. They watch over me and love me. I shall never more go home, but I love this place. See, she, they brought in an old man the other day—he looked like a wild beast. How he growled, and his eyes flashed! Now he sits quiet, and he balances with his eye the kind friend who loves us all, as he walks among us, and he seems to with us please him. Don't you think he has a soul? I once thought mine was dead! I am as one raised up from the dead.

Here too is the crazy struggling who feared that he was forsaken in this. Every feature yes bears the marks of strong excitement. Yet how beautiful! how interesting in the intensity of the expression. There is a change already

for the better; though he is still pale and his eye restless a shade of joy seems to lie upon his parted lips. He is like the tempest-tossed mariner, fearing yet hoping—for the clouds are thinner and the winds are somewhat hushed. But alas, see his forehead begin to ache again. It is observed—the kind friend has placed his hand upon his brow, and the touch of kindness has rubbed out the lines of anguish.

The boy rests his head upon the friend's bosom and weeps. He shall go home restored—the first-born and only son to a father who has none else to love!

"Shall I go in with you to prayer this evening," asks another. "I will be quiet, very quiet. I have not screamed out all day. When the fit came I pressed this handkerchief to my mouth and stopped it: I know I can keep quiet; I want to pray to God as I did once when—"—

Yes: and we will enter too and pray with them. More than one-half of the inmates are present, subdued, thoughtful, some even thankful. Observe the strapping who has so much interested us. He has taken the lowest and farthest seat as one unworthy, he has buried his face in his hands, and is bowed down. A heart-felt humility seems to have taken the place of despair. He will soon cling to a Saviour, and hear with joy those blessed words, "Come upon me all ye weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

How beautiful this place, how precious this privilege which unites the light of Christian truth to shine through the darkness of the mind into their very hearts! How truly is this temple which Christian love has set up, a refuge for the stricken! The prayer ascends—not a sound breaks the serene stillness; a communion with their Father in Heaven has given peace to the afflicted. They sleep sweetly and soundly; it soothes the brain upon the ear:

"Let cares like a wild deluge come,
And storms of sorrow fall,
May I but safely reach my home,
My God, my Heaven, my all,
There shall I lodge my weary soul
In seas of Heavenly rest,
And not a wave of trouble roll
Across my peaceful breast."

We have emptied the cell, we have taken the inmate from the jail, the almshouse, the cage, we have stricken off the sentence and chains, we have set the prisoner free; and even in a few short months have sent back many to their homes and families who otherwise must have passed a long life of misery. And helping us, we have done much good; we have poured the stream of gladness through many a heart.

Most this remains but the sketch of fancy — a mere day-dream! The anchor is in part with you, my friend.

Portsmouth Journal, March 31, 1858.

A PLEA FOR THE INSANE.

Mr. Brewster:— Permit me through your columns to offer an additional plea for the insane. I will ground my plea on the nature of their disorder, the treatment it demands, and the general species of such treatment where employed.

Insanity is often spoken of as a disorder of the mind; but wrongly. The mind, the soul, the immaterial existence within, cannot be sick, any more than it can die. Its medium of communication with the outward universe may be partially or entirely cut off, so that it can neither receive light nor passion, nor express or communicate its own collisions. This is the case in insanity, which is a disorder not of the soul itself, but of its bodily instruments or organs. Sometimes wrong impressions only are conveyed to the mind which still holds unimpaired its capacities of reasoning and expressing its self, and in such cases the patient retains all his powers of intellect and disposition of heart, reason as soundly as in health, though on false pretences, and warfields his usual notions and principles of action, though he mistakes the grounds for these notions. In such instances the unimpaired, but deluded soul, professes the strongest of claims upon the sympathy of its fellow spirits upon their most earnest efforts to do wrong with the delusion. In other cases the soul leads a hidden, secluded life, is isolated in its secret office, kept like a sealed fountain, holds no converse with the outward universe, receives no impression of what transpires during its isolation, and, if the disease is situated, commences its action at the very point where the life of sensibility had

suspended it weeks, or even years before. Of this entire suspension and positiveness of the intellect during insanity, and its capacity of taking up the thread of its operations where it dropped them, I will relate one in lieu of many perfectly authenticated instances. A man had been employed for a day with a beetle and wedges, in splitting pieces of wood for erecting a fence. At night, before going home, he put the beetle and wedges into the hollow of an old tree, and directed his sons who had been at work in an adjoining field, to accompany him next morning to assist in making the fence. In the night he became morose, and continued in a state of insanity several years, during which time his mind was not occupied on any of the subjects with which he had been conversant when in health. After several years his reason returned suddenly, and the first question he asked was whether his sons had brought home the beetle and wedges. They, being afraid of entering upon any explanation, only said that they could not find them; on which he arose from his bed, went to the field where he had been at work so many years before, and found where he had left them, the wedges and iron rings of the beetle, the wooden part being entirely mouldered away. Cases like this are valuable, as showing that in insanity the mind receives no stain, contracts no incapacity, however deformed the images which may float before the heated brain, however gross the aberrations, however horrid the blasphemies to which the wandering lips may give utterance. That which is pure remains pure still; that which is holy, is holy still. What a powerful motive does this circumstance furnish for efforts to restore a gifted intellect, a fervent heart, to its wonted functions. Moreover, the idea that insanity is but a bodily disorder furnishes antecedently the best possible ground to hope in every case for its cure. Were it what it is commonly called, a mental malady, vain would be the help of man; the only appeal would be to the direct interposition of the Father of spirits. But if simply a bodily disorder, then it falls within the range which Providence has assigned to human skill and efforts; and the treatment of it constitutes a distinct branch of medical science, like every other, capable of indefinite improvement.

But for the purpose of applying right means of restoration,

so far as they are known, and of making new discoveries with regard to the management of the insane, hospitals are indispensable, as we shall see by a momentary glance at the nature of the treatment to be employed. It is two-fold, physical and moral, the physical designed to reduce the body to a healthy state, and thus to furnish the soul with a safe and true avenue of communication with the outward world; the moral aiming to overcome the barriers which shattered nerves or a disordered brain may have interposed, to hold direct converse with the imprisoned soul, and subvert its feebleness and vigorous action is bringing back its servant, the body to its rightful post of duty. The physical treatment requisite, consists less in a regular course of medicine, which could be administered anywhere than in a strict and minute regimen, to which every item of diet, exercise, sleep or recreation shall be made to bear on the end proposed. There must be in all these particulars a close adaptation to the circumstances, of each individual, and a change from time to time according as he is excited or quiet, gay or sad, contented or the reverse. This requires a constant supervision on the part of the experienced and skillful, and a management equally removed from the indiscriminate indulgence of indulgent kindness and the severity of unfeeling harshness or cruel keeper. These requisites cannot possibly be combined, except in an establishment devoted expressly and entirely to that one purpose.

To the moral class of means, moral means, it is impossible to assign too high an efficacy. Severity and unkindness aggravate the disorder. Merely ordinary measures of care, expressions of interest, manifestations of love reach not the shrouded soul, which seems like an apartment artificially darkened. But as by the sun's noon day beams the curtains of such an apartment will be penetrated, and its darkness changed into twilight; so by careful continued use of benevolence, long the soul be reached through the thick walls within which disease has shut it. God can find direct communication with the darkened intellect; and we cannot doubt, does visit it in its night season, giving it hint to the truth the world knows not of, instructing into it a light and peace which his works have but the power of imparting. He, who in truth torn the impress and withheld the power of God, could by his very lack break down the prison walls of disease, and call back the long

alienated soul to its granted functions; and I can easily conceive that such momentary restrictions were but the natural and necessary effect of the divinity which must have beamed in his every glance, and breathed in his every word, of that subtle and divine love, which played unceasingly upon his features, and made him literally and truly the Sun of righteousness. The fulness of the Godhead is no longer manifested bodily among us, and instantaneous restorations cannot therefore be effected; but the usual treatment of insanity consists in carefully concentrating those same genial rays of love, which shone in their peerless effulgence in the incarnate Deity. Nature must be permitted to exert her charms, to spread her verdure, to hold forth her beauties, to warble her music, and to appeal with her thousand voices of love to sensibilities unquenched, though dormant.

Then that human kindness and love, which is an ever present manifestation of the Deity, must be continually filled; every needless restraint removed; every harmless indulgence granted; and thus must the alienated spirit be roused forth from its retreat by the energy of love. Thus this class of patients cannot be employed so the full with a private patient. There is no choice of residence; no opportunity to culst the brightest and most salubrious influences of nature, in which happy experience authorizes us to attach the very first importance. Moreover, it is hard to shield a private patient from insult. It is often unsafe for want of sufficient supervision to release him from restraint, and allow him indulgences, which might prove beneficial; and it has been seen that the great majority of lunatics, those, whether rich or poor, high or low, who are left either to relatives or to the public, are treated with absolute cruelty. But in public establishments, particularly in this country, for the relief of the insane, the law of love is made the ruling principle. A spot is always selected (at least this is the case with fire, which I have myself seen) which nature has made fertile, elevated, airy, salubrious, commanding an extensive prospect, capable of being laid out in ornamental grounds, in garden, shrubbery, park and orchard. The house is always fitted up with neatness and elegance well ventilated, thoroughly heated. The utmost kindness is observed in the treatment even of refractory patients; and the slightest deviation from this rule is deemed a sufficient reason for discharging any

attendants. With numerous overseers and a large, but well fenced and guarded territory, personal confinement is deemed for the most part needless: the patient sees not the eye that watches him, feels not the hand which restrains him, feels not against the grates of a prison, whose area he measures not by feet, but by acres. Their employment and recreation, whether of a bodily or mental character, are furnished to each according to his peculiar tastes and wants; and I am gratified to find that religion is instituted as a prime means of restoration, that the influences of Him, at whose word insanity is often laid to flight, and by the abuse of whose name it has still oftener been produced, are now invoked to dispel the spirit of sickness and darkness, and to bring the sufferer to himself. At the Bloomingdale Asylum near New York, a venerable, mild, judicious, and faithful chaplain is constantly employed, and every Sabbath may be seen a company of inmates, sitting as did the bodiliness denizens at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and to human appearance in their right mind, listening earnestly to the soothing words of Christian love, making devoutly in the responses of the liturgy, and in lifting in faithless melody their songs of praise to Him, who commands the light to shine out of darkness. The physician of the Lunatic Hospital at Worcester, has always warmly urged, and in his last report owns with fervent gratitude for his own successful and happy experience, the establishment of a regular chapel of daily worship and stated Sabbath services, as one of the best means possible for soothing, cheering and restoring the inmates.

Let us now look for a moment at the results which our hospitals manifest, and the encouragement which they afford for the establishment of similar institutions.

In the first place, it is satisfactorily ascertained, that even in desperate and hopeless cases confinement is entirely unnecessary: and that the most frantic can be subdued to all physical comforts and enjoyments of civilized life.

In the Worcester Asylum, there are very many going at large, entirely harmless, to whom it had been deemed wise to give the smallest share of liberty.

The two chief managers of the farming establishment, are men who had been confined in jail for many years for terrible committed insanity, but who now plough and reap side by side, unguarded and alone. I quote from an early

respect of this hospital, two or three of the most striking cases. One is that of a man who had committed homicide, had been in prison twenty-eight years, for seven years of that time had not felt the influence of fire, and many nights had not lain down for fear of freezing. He had not been shaved for twenty-eight years, and had been provoked and excited by the introduction of hundreds to see the exhibition of his sayings. He is now comfortable in health, well clad, keeps his bed and room remarkably clean, and, although very insane on certain subjects, is most of the time pleasant, companionable and entirely harmless and docile. He shaves himself twice a week, sits at the table with sixteen others, takes his meals, walks about the village and over the fields, with an attendant to accompany him. Another case is named of a man, who committed homicide, was in one prison fourteen years, was during that time without clothes, his hair and beard matted, his skin so entirely filled with the dust of charcoal that it was impossible from its appearance to discover of what nation he was. He was in the habit of screaming so loud as to annoy the whole neighborhood, and was considered a most dangerous and desperate man. When he came to the hospital, he was provided with a new suit of clothes, which the sheriff advised to have taken off and preserved, not doubting that he would strip them in rages in two hours. He was however induced to preserve them with great care; and has constantly for two years worn his clothes, sleeps in a good bed, sits at the table to take his meals, and is quite a civil, although a very insane man. Another case is related of a mechanic, who had been in close confinement for six years. He committed homicide; and, if this institution had not been erected, would probably never have been permitted to leave his cell. He is now a useful mechanic, labors a great portion of his time, often reads his bible, and the public papers, is exceedingly happy that this place has been provided for him, and thanks its founders and conductors daily for the benefits conferred by it on himself and other inmates. He walks abroad and often attends church. These are only a few of many cases that have been from year to year reported. And if this were all, could an asylum only be afforded by public charity, for the freedom and comfort of those innocent beings, whom an inexorable Providence has cut off from usefulness, humanity would plead most loudly for the immediate supply of the缺憾. But this is not all. Even in these old and desperate cases, not only improvement, but

entire recovery sometimes takes place, though in more than two-thirds of the cases, which are left without proper treatment for more than a year, the disease becomes chronic and incurable. But if the patient be carried to an asylum within three months of the first attack, recovery is almost certain; the risk of permanent insanity is hardly worth mentioning; and the proportion of the cures among those whose insanity is less than a year's standing is estimated by a comparison of several reports to amount to nine-tenths of the whole number. Now, were an asylum for the insane established in our State and in successful operation, every patient would be carried to it at once, and the present generation of the incurably insane would be the last.

In view of such results, we would earnestly plead with our civil rulers, and an enlightened and humane public, to provide an asylum for this unfortunate class of our fellow-beings, not for guilty, but for innocent men and women, who have been, but who, if left in chains and darkness, can never again be, an ornament and blessing to society. It is to put an end to the most heathenish and cruel sufferings, to raise the inmate from a condition worse than that of horses and cattle, to clothe him, to warm him, to feed him, to screen him from insult, to protect him from the gaze of brutal curiosity, and, by the will of Providence to re-invest him with the attributes of a rational and accountable being, that we implore the aid of a public, that can reach the arms of its charity across oceans and continents, yet too often forget claims, which lie close to its own doors.

Providence Journal, April 14, 1828.

SOME PECUNIARY CONSIDERATIONS TOUCHING THE INSANE.

We wish to show in this article, that, setting aside all motives of a higher, and purer character, it is *expedient* for us to proceed to immediate action in regard to our Insane Hospital, by reason of the *pecuniary economy* which must of necessity result therefrom. We assume as our basis that there are 600 insane persons in the State of New Hampshire, although we believe that nearly 300 more could *safely* be added to the list. Now by a careful examination of various statistical tables as published in the annual reports of the Mass. Insane Hospitals, we find the number of deaths to be about 1 in 12, of the aggregate number of admissions into the two Asylums of that State. Supposing then, that no new cases of Insanity should occur, it is evident that in 12 years our whole present Insane population of 600, would have disappeared.

Again, as appears by the statistical tables already alluded to, as well as by the statistics of many European Hospitals, and the opinion of those skilled in matters of Insanity, the average proportion of cures in recent cases admitted into the Asylums is 9 to 10, while the whole number of annual new cases of Insanity in this State is 50, upon the very lowest and fairest computation we have been enabled to make. Consequently had we a Hospital, 45 out of our 50 annual new cases would be restored to a right mind.

Let us, before proceeding to our deductions, briefly recapitulate the above statements.

Mortality among the Insane, 1 in 12.

Whole number of insane in N. H. 600, all which would disappear in 12 years.

No. of cures of new cases in Hospital, 9 out of 10.

Annual number of new cases in N. H., 50.

Annual number of cures had we a Hospital, 45.

It is therefore evident that at the expiration of 12 years, we should have of Insane persons, *first*, our 50 annual new cases—*secondly*, over one-tenth of incurable cases multiplied by 12, making 60. In all, 50 new cases—60 incurables—110 Total. Let us however, in order to stand within indisputable limits, add 40 more, giving us a total of 150 cases of insanity. Subtracting therefore 150 from 600, our present number, we have at the end of twelve years a dim-

burden of life: that is, we shall be called upon at the expiration of twelve years to support 120, instead of 800, insane persons.

Now, although the expense of caring for the insane would greatly exceed the expense of caring for the poor, we are willing, in order to be within our bounds, to rate the expenditures as equal; and although the average yearly expense of patients is nearly \$70, we will take off 32 1-2 per cent., and call it only \$46.

800 multiplied by 800, our present number of Insane,	640,000
800 multiplied by 120, our number of insane patients at twelve years,	96,000
	<hr/> \$22,500

Consequently, at the expiration of twelve years, we have a reduced expenditure of \$22,500 annually for the support of the Insane.

Let it be noted, however, that we are perfectly aware that the expense of caring for the insane in this State must greatly exceed 20 dollars per year; but let it at the same time be thus be noted, that we have, in the first place, struck off 320 from the list of our Insane population; in the next place, reduced the the present expenditure 32 1-2 per cent.; and in the third place, made no addition of the annual deduction for the twelve years during which there is a steady decrease of more than 70 cases of our present number. And if all these considerations do not suffice, we will double the supposed yearly expenditure at the end of our twelve years and call it \$46,000, and still we shall have a steady drawing to the State of \$16,500 by the establishment of a suitable Asylum for the reception of the Insane.

Indorsed & approved, April 24, 1824.

PROSPECTS OF THE ENTERPRISE.

Benevolence of action is rapidly overtaking benevolence of purpose, and the time seems fast approaching when an Insane Hospital, which has so long existed only in the minds of the philanthropist, will have an existence in truth and reality. To judge from intelligence received, there appears to be one united, resolute, energetic movement in this behalf throughout the State; and if the call upon the benevolent be met elsewhere with the same generous alacrity as in this town, success is no longer a subject of hope but of certainty. Thus far, our subscriptions have been made without hesitancy, and with a liberality which even the most ardent well-wisher could not have dared anticipate. To judge by what has already been effected, (the paper having been circulated only three days, and not presented to more than one-third of those whose names will speedily be added, and yet the amount subscribed already exceeding Twenty-five Hundred Dollars,) there cannot be a doubt that Five Thousand Dollars and upwards, will be the smallest limits of the contribution in this place; while many individuals have professed a readiness to double the amount set against their names, rather than see this generous enterprise frustrated — an enterprise against which not one of the ordinary and oftentimes justifiable objections of *incapacity*, has been or ever can be proffered.

Before the present system of prisons and prison discipline could be adopted, it was necessary to combat the objection that, by ameliorating the condition of the convicted culprit, the terror of the law would be diminished, and new inducements held out for the commission of crime; so also in regard to relieving the destitute and providing asylums where their every want should be supplied, the momentous question as to the encouragement of idleness and consequent pauperism, in those who saw a comfortable refuge awaiting them the moment they chose to avail themselves of it, was first to be met and answered; but in regard to this great public charity the question of expediency cannot for a single moment be urged; for no one can pretend that an Insane Hospital will encourage idleness, or that

there is any possible mode in which the benevolent provisions of such an Institute, can be abused by the recipients of its favor. On the contrary, the experience of other States and other countries, satisfactorily shows that if there be any charity which is truly blessed, "which blesseth him that gives and him that takes," it is this; for though the advantages to the afflicted inmates are beyond all estimation, yet the measure of advantage is turned back a thousand-fold to the community at large.

In view of these things, therefore, let us take all encouragement, and as we have begun so let us go forward with one heart, with one mind, with one resolve, with a heart beating warm and loud at the call of the suffering inmate, with a mind fertile in schemes of benevolent relief, and with a resolve, fixed and determined, that the cause we have espoused shall not be forsaken till we have borne it triumphantly through.

Portsmouth Journal, May 5, 1838.

THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

"An Appeal to the Citizens of New Hampshire, in behalf of the Suffering Inmate. Alas! are the miserable."

Such is the title-page of the pamphlet just issued from the press of the *Portsmouth Journal Office*.

It is exactly what it purports to be; an appeal to the citizens of this State in behalf of the suffering inmate, an appeal, not to the heart alone, but equally to the understanding; and we believe no one can peruse the facts therein set forth without feeling, not only the duty but the absolute necessity, of hastening, with eager steps, to the immediate relief of those wretched beings so long gone forth, unnoticed, from all our bosoms.

And, in the language of the writer, "Who are the individuals thus bereft of beneficent light?" There is but one class in which we can allude at present: a class embracing almost the entire mass of the population of this State; a class generally supposed to be more exempt than any other from the fearful ravages of insanity, yet, in whose midst it will be found to prevail with more frequency and greater violence than under any other form of society whatever. We refer to the agriculturalist, the tiller of

the soil, the *Forester*. The language of the writer upon this point, is most striking, fully sustained, as it evidently is, by the statistics both of England and America.

"In twelve exclusively agricultural counties in England, the proportion of the insane was recently reported to be 1 in 821. In twelve other counties, where the inhabitants are differently employed, the proportion of the insane was found to be but 1 in 1200. In the last report of the Worcester Asylum we have a list of the occupations of 262 of its past and present inmates. On this list we have 21 *farmers* and 74 *laborers*, while the remaining 215 are divided among 58 different trades and professions, averaging less than 4 to each. We do not then petition our agricultural districts to make provision for the insane poor of our populous towns and villages, but to provide a house of refuge for a malady, in which our own provinces are peculiarly exposed."

This is a home appeal to the inhabitants of New Hampshire, from which there is no escape; for, whether we can account for it or not, these are the facts of the case, incontrovertible proving that, notwithstanding the seeming calmness of agricultural pursuits, the tranquillity of the *Forester's* life, the seclusion in which he follows his daily and honorable toil, and his removal from the strife, the weariness and turmoil which pervade the mercantile and manufacturing districts of the community, yet for all this, the destroying angel hath chosen the *tiller of the soil* as the peculiar object for his desolating shaft. And when to this we add the difficulty, the almost impossibility of making suitable provision for the comfort, much less for the restoration of the Insane, detached and scattered through a wide-spread agricultural community, methinks we have said enough to secure the efficient co-operation and generous aid of the *Foresters* throughout this State, in behalf of that great and merciful object, toward the accomplishment of which so many are putting forth their resolute and united efforts.

In the strong language of the writer, "We implore help in this great work from a christian public, a public that can reach the arms of its charity across oceans and continents, yet too often forgets chains which lie close to its own doors."

In conclusion, we urgently ask of those, if such indeed there should still be, who doubt the expediency, or who feel not the

christian obligation of this benevolent charity, to peruse the above named pamphlet, and doubt not, that after such perusal, they will become zealous joint workers with those whose sympathies are already enlisted, whose action has already commenced, and whose resolution is as immovable as the great law of charity which has inspired them.

W.

Portsmouth Journal, May 12, 1838.

THE INHUMANITY AND INJUSTICE OF SUBJECTING THE GUILTLESS INSANE TO SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

If the statistics we have been enabled to collect respecting insanity be, in any degree accurate, there are, within the boundaries of New Hampshire, more than 150 insane persons confined prisoners in bridewells, in cages and in jails, and consequently 150 persons subjected in a greater or less degree to solitary confinement.

Let us for a moment direct our attention to the effects of this desolating seclusion upon those of sound mind, and in whom all the resources of intellect, of memory and of hope are still open. In the report of the Prison Discipline Society for 1827, we find the following account of one of the inmates of the State Prison at Maine, where the utility and influence of solitude was fully tested and utterly confirmed.

"In the case of J. B. it was necessary to remove him to the Hospital four times, to enable him to endure fifty-six days solitary confinement. The last time he was removed from his cell, he shivered like an open leaf; his pulse was very feeble; his articulation could scarcely be heard from his bed to the grate of his cell, eight feet; and when he was taken out he could scarcely stand alone."

In another instance the unfortunate victim was found dead, on the morning of the fourth day of solitary confinement, having hung himself to the grate of his cell with a piece of the lining of his blanket. As before remarked, this system is now wholly abandoned in the above named prison and solitary confinement is resorted to only to induce prison discipline upon the refractory.

Again, when, during the years 1825-26, it was strongly urged upon the legislature of Pennsylvania, so to construct their prisons

that solitary confinement might be effectually and systematically enforced. Gen. Lafayette employed the following strong and conclusive language in writing to one of his friends in this country :

"The people of Pennsylvania think that the system of solitary confinement is a new idea, a new discovery ; not so, it is only the revival of the system of the Bastille. I hope they will consider the effect this system had on the poor prisoners there. I repaired to the scene, on the second day of the demolition and found that all the prisoners had been incarcerated, *thru* solitary confinement, except one; he had been a prisoner twenty-five years. He looked around with amazement, for he had seen nobody during that space of time, and before night he was so much affected, that he became a confirmed maniac, from which situation he never recovered."

Citizens of New Hampshire: in view of such statements, will you longer allow our *hundred and fifty* guiltless fellow-beings to languish unprotected, uncared for, cut off from hope and debased the pale of sympathy and consolation? Will you longer deny relief and comfort to those whom an invisible hand has struck down, in mid career of usefulness, of industry and of honor? Times of ignorance about God winds at; this can no longer be your plea; year after year has this subject been urged home upon you with arguments, with facts, with eloquence and with appeals to every sentiment of justice and of humanity. You may indeed, if you be so minded, turn a regardless ear to all this, but should you longer drag ruled to guiltless *innocent* captives, will not a thousand voices hereafter utter the fearful words of condemnation, "I was sick and in prison, and ye visited me not?"

W.

Portsmouth Journal, June 2, 1838.

MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE INSANE AT CONCORD, ON WEDNESDAY NEXT.

It is now six years since the subject of a Hospital for the Insane was first brought before the public mind of this State. We believe Gov. DIMMICK was the first who alluded to it, in his message to the Legislature, June 7, 1822; and from that time to the present it has been kept in view with greater or less distinctness, but still without any decisive and efficient action.

Each successive Governor has made the necessity and duty of establishing an Insane Hospital a prominent item in his message.

Committees have been appointed by the Legislature to inquire into the need and expediency of such an institution; and the reports have been that the numbers and sufferings of the Inmate in New Hampshire, were such as to call for the immediate and undelayed interposition of the Legislature in their behalf, no less on the ground of *justice* than of *humanity*. "The prison," says the Committee of 1834, "has been condemned as no school was ever conducted, and has suffered as no criminal ever suffered. The only by which it has been justified, denounces against him the penalties due only to crime, while it is mitigated by one of those merciful provisions, which, in the penal code, attempt justice with humanity."

Appeals under various forms have been made to the community, and strenuous efforts put forth in behalf of these guiltless sufferers, and although the last Prison Discipline Report speaks with less encouragement and hope than hitherto upon this subject, yet we are fully confident that the measure for reformation and effectual effort has now arrived, and that the 10th of June, 1838, shall be looked back upon by thousands, as the brightest anniversary of their lives. Hereforth we shall be able to proceed with systematic and organized strength, and with a coöperation of purpose united to the encouragement and aid of thousands, whose individual efforts single could be availing, but whose concentrated strength will fully suffice for the accomplishment of the good and generous purpose for which they have pledged their efforts.

Let then, every friend of this cause, whose avocations can permit his attendance, be present at Concord on Wednesday next, that we may show that our numbers are widely try are scattered, that we may inform ourselves more thoroughly, as touching the procedure necessary to be adopted for the accomplishment of the purpose, and that we may gather new zeal and encouragement for the work upon which we have entered.

To use the striking language of another, "we believe that the time has arrived when the gates of slavery, to which so many are so well consigned, shall no longer be filled with misery, woe and sorrow; but that even their so-called cells shall be penetrated by the rays of benevolence, and the heart of the wretched captive be soothed and softened by the gentleness of compassion. Once more we call upon those to whom the happiness of thousands is given in charge to bear the groaning of the prisoner; to free those that are appointed unto death."

W.

Piedmont Herald, June 2, 1838.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The friends of humanity will be gratified to learn that we have now a fair prospect for the establishment of an Asylum in New Hampshire. The bill to incorporate an Association for the purpose of establishing an Asylum, has become a law: it appropriates thirty shares of the New Hampshire Bank, being the property of the State, for the purpose of meeting the necessary establishment, to be made over to the Association, whenever they shall have furnished to the Governor satisfactory evidence, that fifteen thousand dollars has been raised from other sources, or secured to be appropriated to that object.

As about one-third of the necessary sum has been already subscribed in our vicinity, the remaining ten thousand will doubtless be speedily taken up elsewhere, and we hope another year will find the site selected, the buildings completed, and one of the noblest charities of which our State can boast, exerting its life-giving influence over the unfortunate and suffering insane.

We cannot forbear a word of commendation upon the zealous industry of those gentlemen who have been so deeply impressed with the importance of the enterprise, that it seemed to breathe with every breath of their life. If acts of benevolence toward the benefactor, thine happy are they.

The matter of location we have never heard discussed. In whatever part of the State it may be, it should be in the most healthy location, a pure air, good scenery, and fertile land. Perhaps some benevolent individual who possesses such a site, may be disposed to bestow it for the purpose.

Portsmouth Journal, July 7, 1838.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The following gentlemen, residents of the several towns in Buckingham county, will act as Agents for the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane by taking charge of the subscription papers in their respective towns. They feel a deep interest in the subject, and their exertions will very essentially serve the benevolent object. It is to be hoped that others may volunteer their services; and such as wish and any of the gentlemen named who have not been supplied will receive the subscription papers from the subscribers. Any difficulties avoided, or any further information required, will be promptly furnished.

We believe the county of Buckingham will do its duty. There is, we trust, no town which would try to escape its share of this burden; we feel confident something will be received from all. Many towns have already maintained their subscriptions liberally and freely.

It is deemed very important that the collection should be made as early as possible, so early that the transfer of the Stock from the State should be made in December. The subscription papers should be sent back to the Secretary of the Corporation, early in December, or sooner when practicable.

It will be remembered that a subscription of fifty dollars constitutes the subscriber a member of the Corporation; also that a number may join in a subscription to that amount for the purpose of constituting any one a member.

The subscribers in December are requested, as soon as it can be convenient, to pay the amount they have subscribed.

S. E. CURTIS,

A. W. HAVEN.

Councillors for the County of Buckingham

Doncott, Nicholas Quinby, Esq., Rev. Joseph Fullerton, Deacon Thomas Colby.

Southwick, Samuel Pillsbury, Esq., Elizabeth Hunt, Esq.

Northampton, Matthias Bartlett, Esq., E. R. Currier, Esq., J. G. Gale, M. D.

Chatham, Moses Lacey, Esq., Moses Sargent, Esq., Rev. Mr. Russell.

Hampden, Lorenzo Hatchelder, Esq., Rev. J. N. C. Bartley, Andrew B. Marshall, Esq.

Southwick, E. Dearborn, M. D., Rev. Simeon T. Abbott, John Putnam, Esq.

Northampton, Moses L. Bates, M. D., Nathaniel Batchelder, Esq., Rev. John French.

Andover, Hon. John Vose, Dr. Haver.

Westbrook, Joseph Grimes, Esq., Joseph Dutton, M. D., Rev. Mr. Harrison.

Westfield, S. Brown, M. D., Ira St. Clair, Esq., H. G. Coffey, Esq., Peter Bennett, Esq., Dudley Freese, Esq.

East Windsor, Amos Merrill, Esq., Capt. Sanborn, Amos Titton, Esq.

Hampden, Elsworth Lawrence, M. D., Rev. Mr. Eldridge.

Hampden Falls, Levi Luce, Esq., Wells Hestey, Esq., John Weyre, Esq.

Southwick, Hon. Smith Lamprey, Ira Blake, Esq., Dr. Osgood.

Northampton, J. Bartlett, M. D., Isaac Webster, Esq.

Southwick, Benjamin Mack, Esq., Deacon J. Holmes, Dr. Sargent.

Westfield, James Thum, Esq.

Westwick, Cyrus Frink, Esq., Winthrop Pickering, Esq.

Westfield, John Pillsbury, Esq., T. J. Parsons, Esq.

Southwick, James Foss, Esq., Dr. Bartlett.

Greenfield, Dr. Brown, Rev. S. W. Clark.

Newmarket, G. W. Kittredge, M. D., Benj. M. Wheeland, Esq., Col. J. B. Creighton.

Northampton, Joseph L. Carey, Esq., Hon. Bradbury Bartlett, Col. Joseph Cider.

Westwick, Dr. Keller, Col. Stephen Tucker.

Northampton, D. B. Chase, Esq., Parley Robinson, Esq.

Westwick, Joseph Blake, Esq., Stephen Osgood, Esq.

Southwick, Hon. John Woodbury, Rev. Mr. Channing.

South Hampton, John Palmer, Esq., J. White, Esq., Abel Brown, Esq.

Weymouth, Isaac M'Gill, Esq., Col. Alexander Parks, Jr., Dr. A. F. Phillips.

Rockyng, William Plumer, Jr., Esq.

Charle's Hill, Samuel Bell, Esq., Mr. Clement H. S. French, Esq.

Northwood, Ebenezer Cox, Esq., Hon. John Barrett.

Newmarket, T. Turlin, Esq.

River, Dr. Perry, J. Sullivan, Esq., George Gardner, Esq.

Farmington, S. E. Chase, Alfred W. Haven.

Dorchester Journal, Dec. 20, 1828.

INSANE ASYLUM.

It will be seen by a notice in our advertising columns, that the annual meeting of the Corporation will be held at Concord in a few weeks. Although some liberal donations have been made, yet much more is needed before the work can be accomplished. It is to be hoped that those to whom memorials were addressed in October, will make a return of their delinquency before the annual meeting, whether they have been enabled to accomplish little or much. Let all those who have not yet contributed for this benevolent purpose, come forward and enroll their names as the friends of the unfortunate insane. It is a charity at which no donor can be accused that he will not, at some future time, be a partaker.

Dorchester Journal, Dec. 10, 1828.

N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

We congratulate the friends of the Asylum of the Insane for New Hampshire on the prospect for complete success. There can be no doubt but that a refuge for "the afflicted" will soon be provided. We feel great satisfaction that the appeal to the citizens of this State has been so promptly responded to.

The anti-slavery and the abolitionists from the State together are sufficed for the erection of the necessary buildings—but more is wanted. A fund should be created so that the interest may reduce the expenses of the Asylum, that its doors may be open to all. The poor must be taken care of, and the price of board paid

show that it will be within the reach of every one who is hearty. We have been requested once more to call the attention of the citizens of those towns which have yet done nothing, to the necessity of immediate exertion. There are many towns in this neighborhood which have made no report. Are the citizens of these towns willing to place their share of the burden upon others?

We are also requested to state that it is considered a great object to make the collections as speedily as possible. The subscribers in this town and vicinity are reminded that a prompt attention to the payment of their subscriptions will be an additional aid to the cause. An account is opened at the Piscataqua Bank, and money deposited will be placed to the credit of the Treasurer, with the name of the donor.

Portsmouth Journal, Jan. 19, 1830.

INSANE ASYLUM.

The question is frequently asked, why is not the site of the contemplated Asylum selected, and the work progressing? The following is the explanation, given by the editor of the *Concord Eagle*. It appears to be a *slae* yet well with the State registry that the location shall be at Concord. We have no doubt that the subscribers in this vicinity (and the proportion is not small) are willing to abide the decision of the committee appointed to select the site, whether it be in Buckingham, Cheshire, or Sullivan County—but they are *very* unwilling to be under arbitrary dictation. It is to be hoped that petty local prejudices, or party animosities, will not impede a work which was undertaken in Christian benevolence, contributed to by the hand of true philanthropy, and if completed in a right spirit, will be a most residence for the angel of mercy.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE. It is to be regretted that this important work is not advancing more rapidly towards completion. It is now nearly a year since the act of incorporation was granted, and yet but a little more than a commencement has been made. The requisite amount of individual subscription was raised four months ago, the Trustees of the Institution on the part of the State and the corporation were appointed, and a committee chosen to select a site for the erection of the necessary buildings. At this point the matter seems to have come to a dead stand, is conse-

quence, it is given out, of the course taken by the Governor in the premises. The sixth section of the act of incorporation is as follows:—

"*Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That Thirty Shares of the stock which the State now owns in the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, in aid of its benevolent objects; Provided, this section shall not take effect until satisfactory evidence shall be presented to the Governor, that the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars has been paid or secured to be paid, by individuals or trustees, other sources than the above grant, and thereupon the Governor shall issue his order to the Treasurer of the State. Directing him to transfer to the corporation the said Thirty Shares, and the said Treasurer is hereby authorized and required to make said transfer accordingly.*"

We learn from the *Kennebunkland*, that on the 31st of January last, the Governor was called upon to transfer the State fund, and agreed to do so when the Trustees appointed by the corporation should then certify that they believed the fifteen thousand dollars to be paid by individual subscription was raised and would be secured for the object. They did so before leaving Concord, but no measures have yet been taken to transfer the State fund into the hands of the Treasurer of the corporation. In view of this extraordinary course on the part of the Governor the Locating committee desire to proceed with their expenses, and measures have been taken to secure the individual fund, and put the same out at interest. Nearly fifteen thousand and all about eighteen thousand subscribed have been paid into the treasury.

There is something in the conduct of the Governor in this matter that requires explanation, if indeed it be not totally inexplicable. The terms of the grant are plain and unambiguous. The amount "satisfactory evidence" is in possession of the Governor that the sum of fifteen thousand has been paid by individuals, in aid of the establishment of the Asylum, he is required to issue his order for the transfer of the State fund. Such evidence, it appears, has been presented. Why then is the bounty of the State withheld? Why is the work retarded at a season when much progress might be made in putting matters in train for energetic operations hereafter? The Concord Courier says, the Governor has pursued an "ambitious and shuffling" course towards the corporation, and intimates that an explanation of the causes of the delay will soon be forthcoming from the Trustees.

We hope it will not turn out that His Excellency has been governed in his conduct by any paltry considerations of a local and sectional character, and that his ill-timed opposition to the advancement of this benevolent work arises from a fear that Concord may not be selected as the place of location for the Asylum. It has been said that there is no use in having an Asylum for the Insane, unless it can be at Concord, and from the Governor's tardiness in helping on the work, it is possible he assents to the truth of the declaration—a declaration, we add, which is the very essence of selfishness and illiberality, and can meet the approval of no one who has a heart for the welfare of the suffering Insane. That there is a strong feeling of opposition in the public mind to having the proposed Institution at the Capital, is undeniable. The prejudices of some have carried them so far that their subscriptions have been given only on the condition, expressed in writing, that some other place than Concord should be selected. This singling out of a particular place so pointedly may seem ungenerous if not spiteful. Perhaps it is so, but we are persuaded that the opposition arises from no ill will or improper feeling towards the enterprising citizens of Concord. Far from it. There are reasons why Concord is not the most eligible place for such an Institution. If that town, however, will give more than any other in the State towards the erection of the Hospital, she will probably get it.

Plymouth Journal, May 18, 1839.

INSANE ASYLUM.

There seems to be a contest going on, whether the subscribers or the trustees have the power to choose the location. In the meantime nothing is done, and the Insane are left to their suffering, when the money has been got together for their relief.

How is this quarrel to be settled? I believe there can be no necessity for contending; and I am against all contention that is not necessary. Now I have no doubt but both parties have done wrong, as they usually do when they oppose each other. Which is the most in the wrong I do not think worth while to decide; but I propose the following settlement:

Let the Trustees say they will abide by the report of the Committee out of the State; let the Corporation say the same. The

Committee being authorized by both, can go to work without raising the question under whose authority they act.

I feel convinced that this course will quiet the trustees, and that all the friends of the Institution here will agree that is the right way of avoiding any further dispute. *Sensational.*

INSANE ASYLUM

The difficulties which attended the progress of the Asylum have been done away. The Corporation has appointed Drs. Bell, Woodward and Rockwell to report to the Trustees the most suitable location, whose report is to be final and conclusive. The Trustees have voted that the report of the said gentlemen shall be final. We thus have an intelligent and impartial locating committee whose decision is to be final, supported by the unanimous vote of the subscribers and by the Board of Trustees.

A sub-committee, whose duty it is to examine the different sites, when requested, to receive proposals and to aid the locating committee (but without any vote in the location) has been also appointed, by a unanimous vote. This committee consists of the three gentlemen appointed for that purpose by the Trustees and the three gentlemen appointed by the Corporation.

Much of the difficulty, and so happily withdrawn, arises from the Corporation claiming all the powers in the management of the Asylum. By their vote of to-day, no power was restricted except with the provision "until otherwise ordered by the Corporation." After some debate, these limitations were stricken from the by-laws by an almost unanimous vote of the Corporation. And we are happy to add that harmony and confidence appear to be fully restored.

Mr. Alden of Amherst, was chosen one of the Trustees in place of William Hale of Dover, who declined accepting the appointment.

The advertisement for the proposals for the location, appears in our paper. We trust our citizens will as early as possible hand to the Committee their propositions. *C.*

Dartmouth Journal, June 15, 1851.

INSANE ASYLUM. The location has not yet been officially announced, but it is correct on all hands that Dartmouth has been selected. The papers of the States of the State generally speak

with approbation of the decision, should it so be. The following we copy from the *Concord Eagle*:

INSANE HOSPITAL.—We understand that the Locating Committee, consisting of Messrs. Bell, Woodland and Beckwell, at their meeting at Waverlet last week, were of the unanimous opinion that the Hospital should be located at Portsmouth. This decision will of course be final—so that the vexed question of location is disposed of. Portsmouth is not, in some respects, so eligible a place as might have been selected, but she offered about as much again—thirty thousand dollars—towards the institution as any other town in the State, provided it were located in her limits. Pecuniary considerations should undoubtedly have much weight in such cases—as the economies of an institution of the kind should be as abundant as possible—and perhaps they should outweigh all others, unless the place which presents them be in other respects very objectionable. This is not the case with Portsmouth, and although its distance from some sections of the State may be an objection with some, yet we are satisfied the people, and the corporation, will cheerfully acquiesce in the decision of the committee. *Concord Eagle.*

The spirit of the Concord papers is not scanalizable. Various arguments are brought forward to show the advantage of that town over Portsmouth. There is but one here, however, that of being more central, which has any weight. The peculiar advantages of Portsmouth, aside from its donation, would more than counter-balance all that can be said of other sites.

Portsmouth Journal, Aug. 17, 1859.

INSANE ASYLUM.

We understand that a meeting of the Trustees will be held at Concord early in September; and we rejoice to believe that there is an end to all the difficulties attending this institution. It is to be hoped that progress will be made this autumn; so that the building can be made ready for the reception of the patients during the next year.

As far as we can judge from the remarks of the papers in the State, the public are well satisfied with the location, with the exception of the town of Concord. Even there, there is no serious objection to the location, excepting on the ground that it is not

sufficiently central. But it appears that there are advantages sufficient to outweigh this. The change of air, and scenery, and diet, to those who come from the interior, will amply repay for the additional travel. Besides this, the extreme beauty of the site that can be had, the large sum which is given by the town, the very strong interest which has ever been manifested by our citizens will tend to reconcile all its friends to this location. We have no doubt that those who are disappointed in the decision of the committee, will cheerfully acquiesce. We rest on their good faith, and on their spirit of accommodation, to the necessity of the case. Surely, if any other town had been selected, our citizens would have concurred in it, and we do not doubt but our friends in the interior will do the same.

We trust there will be now a perfect unanimity among the friends of the institution. The committee of location was chosen unanimously by the corporation, and ten or not even of the twelve trustees assented to the arrangement.

We are pleased to see that economy in the expenditure of the funds of the institution is referred to, by name. We want no costly building. Everything should be done to bring down the expenditures to the lowest sum that will effect the object. We should suppose that \$20,000 would be enough to complete the building, leaving the balance of the funds to reduce the debt to the patients for their board at the Asylum.

Providence Journal, Aug. 30, 1858.

INSANE HOSPITAL.

Mr. Editor:—I learn from the papers, and from current report, that the Trustees of the Asylum for the Insane have had a meeting at Providence, to receive and act upon the report of the Committee of location. The decision of that Committee was, that PROVIDENCE should be the place where the Asylum should be fixed. But this decision, it appears, does not meet the approbation of all the Trustees; *five* of whom voted to reject the report. This number is a minority of the board, which consists of twelve, eleven of whom were present. But it is reported that this minority threatened to withdraw, and thus prevent a quorum, if the majority proceeded to act further upon the report?

It should be remembered, however, that this report of the Com-

million of beautes was not an open question; it was not a thing for the Trustees to ride upon at all. The Corporation, at their meeting in June last, agreed that the report should be filed. The Trustees, at a meeting held on the same day, as that of the Corporation, appointed the same gentlemen as their committee of beautes, and also voted that the report should be filed. Thus putting at rest all questions of etiquette or jurisdiction as to the style of said committee, and both Corporation and Trustees agreeing on a positive vote that the decision of the committee should be final. Besides all this the most positive pledges of honor were given by those (if not all of the non-dissenting trustees), that they would not attempt to interfere with the decision of the beautes committee, but when it was made would act according to it.

These pledges were given, and these mutual votes passed, as witnesses of good-will, when some proceedings of Concord had excited severe feelings of intolerance, and had determined a large number of subscribers to seek a dissolution of the Corporation. Yet still, the same majority of the Trustees refuse to conform to their own vote, break their word at home, to which the members of the Corporation were provoked upon to give faith, and threaten to withdraw from the board, and protest a quarrel if the majority presume to go on and act upon the report of the beautes committee.

If the above statements, which we obtain in part only from current report, be correct, it seems very clear to us, that such men are unworthy to be trusted with any part in the administration of a sacred charity: and that they ought to be removed, or else the corporation be dissolved. Among their very first actions as trustees of the trust, we see them discharging, by local prejudices and selfish passions, the functions which should exist among members of a benevolent institution; we see them ready to sacrifice its pecuniary interests by giving up \$22,000 of its funds, which the town of Concord owes, on the single condition that the buildings should be erected here; and in short exhibiting a determination to have the whole under their own control, or to destroy the institution; and this too, while they know they are acting contrary to the wishes of an overwhelming majority of the subscribers, both its members, and its friends of subscription.

In the present state of things, we think it highly important that the *comity* of the board of Trustees should publish a plain account of the facts, a history of the whole proceedings, from the records of the Corporation, and of the Trustees, so that entire

tic information may be before the public. This, at least, is due to their constituents, and to the public generally, and to their own characters. The friends of this benevolent enterprise have a right to know why it is that their funds are kept locked up unused; why it is that the suffering insane are left in their dens and dungeons, without a ray of hope for their relief. We have a right to demand this information from an official source, so that the sin may be laid at the right door. Let this information be spread before the public; and then let a meeting of the Corporation be forthwith called, and such measures will be taken as the cause of humanity and duty may require.

A. SCHUCHMAN.

Pennsylvan Journal, Sept. 21, 1850.

N. H. ASYLUM.

After all the exertions which have been made, for several years, by individuals, actuated by the purest motives of humanity, to effect the establishment of an Asylum for the suffering insane, it is almost incredible that the object is to be defeated by the mismanagement, or selfish views of one or two individuals. The public had a right to believe that the question of location of the institution was fairly, amicably and honorably settled, and that the erection of the buildings would immediately commence. The locating committee were selected on account of their high qualifications, and superior intelligence upon the subject. All parties concerned agreed to submit to their decision. Indeed, it is distinctly understood that a majority of the Trustees, in order to avoid the possibility of subsequent disagreement, entered into a solemn pledge to abide by the decision when it should be made. Such a pledge cannot be violated without attaching to the violators the highest degree of dishonor, unless indeed it can be proved that the locating committee acted corruptly. Such an imputation has been thrown out in the *N. H. Patriot*, without any proof. But the high characters of the Committee, in the absence of all proof, cannot, in the slightest degree, suffer from such a wanton insinuation. It was naturally to be expected that a number, if not many towns should be disappointed in respect to the location. For that very reason the Trustees pledged their honor to abide by the decision. Had Nashua, Keene, Hanover, Sullivan, Concord, Hopkinton, or Pembroke been selected, the people of the Eastern sec-

tion would have neglected, and spurned the very idea of entering into an intrigue to induce the Trustees to violate their pledged honor. We view the plan to overthrow the institution, unless it should be located at Concord, with some degree of horror as well as indignation. As the case now stands, it is too apparent that the Corporation will be dissolved, unless the report of the locating committee shall be fairly carried into effect. It may not be expedient, at present, to assign the reasons which lead to this conclusion, for we yet have some faint hope that some of the minority of the Board of Trustees may be convinced of the impropriety of their conduct, and act in good faith. But, to speak plainly, in respect to the late Gov. Isaac Hill we have no such hope. He is the cause of all the unhappy embarrassment that has occurred.

His inveterate hatred of Portsmouth, and his *affo*ri claims to fix the location at Concord, will not permit him to alter his course. He may perhaps defeat the location at Portsmouth, but he has not sufficient power, for very conclusive reasons, ever to fix it at Concord. The location at Pembroke would unite advantages far superior to any location that could be found in any part of Concord. Surely we have no prejudices against Concord, or its high-minded inhabitants. We were in favor of locating the State House there, as a public record shows; but the location of the Asylum is a very different matter. Within a few years past we have heard learned lecturers on the subject of the requisites, the beautiful scenery in proximity to a flowing river, and various other things deemed essential to a proper location. No part of Concord possesses the peculiar advantages required. And but few such eligible sites can be found, we think, in the whole extent of Portsmouth. Were all the reasons, which influenced the Committee, fully disclosed, the public would more fully perceive the wisdom and the fitness of the location. The only objection raised by the Concord Trustee to Portsmouth, is that the latter is not the centre of the State, and therefore there would be an extra expense of travel. Now is Concord the centre of the State in respect to territory or population? The objection has but little weight. The location at Portsmouth would increase the travel in respect to some parts of the State, while it would reduce it about as much in respect to other parts. As a public consideration therefore it is not very important. In a few years we may travel on the railroad from Portsmouth to Nashua in two or three hours, so that the people of Cheshire and Hillsborough counties would find an easy conveyance for the insane from that place. The populous

ment of Stafford and Buckingham, on account of disease, would at once prefer Portsmouth to Concord. Nor need our Concord comply any more in respect to disease about sending our annual three here, than we do about sending our Representatives, or State members up there. The Concord will go large a kind in Portsmouth, but before she claims the necessary ones all other towns. They demand disease is no small evil for our town to bear, for such a charitable institution. The pre-warlike animosity of Portsmouth, in this matter, has never before been equalled in this State. And some of her citizens have for years been harnessed in the struggle to effect the grand object, so ardently desired by the friends of humanity. It is probable, very probable, that Gov. Hull's rank influence may defeat the matter. If so, would he not be in some measure responsible for the continued sufferings of the insane?

HEBASTY.

Portsmouth Journal, Sept. 24, 1841.

LOCATION OF THE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

For an official account of the strange proceedings at the late meeting of the Board of Trustees, the public have been looking. We give below the statements of two members of the Board, which present a pretty full view of the subject. The closing paragraph of Mr. Cress' statement is an expression of his individual opinion only, and as a friend, but not a subscriber. We trust that if it had been decided by the committee who were vested with full power, that the location should be at Concord, or at any other place, not a stand of opposition would have been heard, every subscriber in Portsmouth would have been promptly paid. But when it comes to the point that no decision of the committee is acceptable unless Concord is the appointed limit, that how would it avail in such momentous decision.

N. H. ASYLUM.

Mr. Editor:—At a meeting of the Trustees of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane, holden at Concord on the 11th of September, 1852, it was unanimously voted that the proceedings of said meeting be published in full in some of the newspapers of this State, and the Secretary was accordingly instructed to prepare copies of said proceedings and forward them to certain printers for the purpose of publication. This not having as yet been done, and the same causes which have thus far induced the Secretary to delay the matter being, perhaps, still in operation, I have thought good, in compliance with the often made request of the friends of the institution, to prepare for your paper such an account of the proceedings of the meeting of the Trustees aforesaid, as my memory will serve me for; leaving it to the Secretary to correct from the *verbal records*, which he has not yet been pleased to publish, any error into which I may inadvertently fall.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman of the board, Mr. Steele of Peterboro. On motion of Mr. Conant of Jaffrey, the board proceeded to organize under the amended charter, electing the same officers as before, and changing the name of chairman to that of President. The yeas and nays being called upon Mr. Conant's motion, stood thus: yeas—Conant, Low, Peaslee, Hill, Steele, Crosby, Nays—Titchell, Atherton, Abbott, Coles, Haven.

Mr. Atherton then moved that the Report of the Locating Committee be read, which being done, Mr. Atherton further moved that it be accepted and acted upon. Upon which motion the yeas and nays being called, stood thus: yeas—Titchell, Atherton, Abbott, Coles, Haven. Nays—Conant, Low, Peaslee, Hill, Steele, Crosby.

A long discussion then ensued, wherein no little reproach was cast by Mr. Hill, both upon the Locating Committee, and the members from Portsmouth for tampering with said Committee, and we were further assured by the same individual that the people of Portsmouth had no desire whatever that the Hospital should be located in their town, and that the appropriation of the surplus-revenues had been made against the consent of the people of said town. When it was now near midnight, a reconsideration of the vote upon Mr. Atherton's motion was made by Mr. Crosby and seconded by Mr. Coles; when Mr. Steele had serious doubts whether it were his duty to put the question of reconsideration unless the motion was not only made but *seconded* by some one who had voted in the negative on the previous trial of the question. His

conscientious scruples being at length overcome, the yeas and nays (including the acceptance or rejection of the report of the Locating Committee) were taken, and stood as follows: yeas—Twitchell, Alberton, Abbott, Cores, Haven, Crosby; nays—Conant, Low, Peaslee, Hill, Steele.

Mr. Peaslee then informed us that the absent member of the board, Mr. Quincy of Rumney, would doubtless vote against the acceptance of the Report, and Mr. Hill thought it would be but deferential to the member from Rumney, for the board to adjourn until he could be present, and quoted, as a precedent, the sometimes adjournment of the U. S. Senate when any distinguished member, as Mr. Webster, or Mr. Clay, was absent, and an important question was about to be voted upon. But when this design of Mr. Hill did not succeed, Mr. Peaslee requested to be informed in what manner so small a majority could possibly hope to act with any prospect of success, when there was so large a minority determined in all things to oppose them. Whereupon the chairman of the board, Mr. Steele of Peterboro, moved that the meeting adjourn to the 28th June, 1830, and the yeas and nays being called, stood as follows: yeas—Conant, Low, Peaslee, Hill, Steele, Crosby, Abbott. Nays—Cores, Twitchell, Alberton, Haven.

Mr. Abbott's vote was, we presume, inadvertently given. It was in vain that the minority protested against this ill-timed delay—it was in vain that they appealed again and again in behalf of five hundred suffering Insane, for whose relief the sum of \$80,000 had been obtained, and was intrusted to men who were thus ready, from the most paltry sectional considerations, to fall back from their written pledges and from the assurances which they had made to a high-minded, and impartial Committee of Location, that the decision of said Committee should be final.

I have thus, Mr. Editor, offered you a brief statement touching the proceedings of the Trustees of the N. H. Asylum, at their meeting in Concord on the evening of the 11th ult. If in anything I have erred, the Secretary can set the public right when he shall see fit to comply with the vote of the Trustees, ordering a publication of the proceedings of the evening aforesaid.

On those who at an illegal meeting of the Trustees, holden some months since, and at which a quorum was not present, recommended an alteration of the Charter, taking all power from the Corporation, and vesting it in the Trustees, falls the first blame that this great charity is thus frustrated. It is not the least evil

of wrong doing that it makes right doing difficult. And a single illegal and wholly unjustifiable step at that early period has resulted in the overthrow of an institution, for whose advancement and success so many have labored long and diligently.

Yours, &c., GEORGE W. HAYEN.

As the Trustees of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane have been called upon for information of their doings in relation to their trust, I do not deem that any apology is necessary for adding to the statements from Mr. Haven such facts as appear to me necessary for the understanding of the position in which the asylum now stands.

At the commencement of the enterprise it was supposed that sufficient funds to accomplish it could not be obtained, either from the State alone, or from private subscription. It was determined therefore to ask of the State \$15,000, to be given on the condition that the same sum should be secured for the object by individuals. It was therefore a joint undertaking being neither a State institution exclusively, nor a private Corporation; and by the charter, was to be managed by a board of twelve Trustees, eight of whom were to be chosen by the Corporation and four to be appointed by the State. By an omission, in the Charter no reference is made to the location of the Asylum; and the question, "does the power to decide upon the location belong to the Corporation or to the Trustees," became immediately a cause of contention.

At the first meeting of the Corporation the Board of Trustees and other officers were chosen, agreeably to the provisions of the Charter. At the second meeting the Corporation proceeded to exercise the right, which they believed belonged to them, of locating the Asylum by choosing a locating Committee. This was in January last. The locating committee however were not called together, as the Governor refused to transfer to the Corporation the money granted by the State, alleging as the reason, that the Corporation had assumed power which should of right be exercised by the Trustees alone.

When it was found that the State funds were not, on this account, paid over to the Treasurer of the Corporation, it appeared to many of the friends of the enterprise that there was great danger that the object would be lost; some wished that the Corporation should be dissolved because they saw no prospect of harmonious action, and a large number of the subscribers signed a call for a meeting "to see if the subscribers would consent to dis-

advise the Corporation." A short time before this meeting was to have been held, a meeting of the Trustees was appointed with the hope of settling the difficulties and of being able to proceed to the work. Five only of the Trustees attended. These were Messrs. Abbott, Lowe, Peaslee, Steele and Cones. As this number did not constitute a quorum the meeting was informal. The gentlemen who assembled believed however that the difficulty could be adjusted to the satisfaction of both parties claiming the right to locate. They voted to recommend to the Legislature to give definitely to the Trustees full powers, and appointed on their part Doctors Woodward, Rockwell and Bell, the Locating Committee. This satisfied the Governor, who immediately transferred the funds; and, as the Corporation had in their previous meeting expressed full confidence in the gentlemen nominated for the locating Committee, it was believed that this proceeding would fully satisfy the Corporation.

Soon after, in June last, both the Trustees and the Corporation held their meetings at Concord. To avoid collision, and to prevent any contest about the right to locate it was concluded to *order the question*; and both the Trustees and the Corporation, by separate votes, concurred in appointing Doctors Woodward, Rockwell and Bell, the locating Committee; and both the *Board of Trustees and the Corporation* voted that the decision of this Committee *should be final*. In the Corporation this vote was passed unanimously, one or two only dissenting in this numerous body. In the Board of Trustees it was passed by a vote of nine, viz.: Messrs. Quincy, Crocker, Abbott, Tuttle, Peaslee, Lowe, Alderman, Haven and Cones; Messrs. Hill and Conant were absent, and Mr. Steele declined to vote.

The Locating Committee attended to their assigned duty and reported that the Asylum be located at Portsmouth. The board of Trustees as has been stated, in their last meeting have virtually *rejected* this Report, Messrs. Hill, Peaslee, Steele, Conant and Lowe, being against the location at Portsmouth, Mr. Quincy absent and Mr. Crocker having voted to defer the decision until June next. This has put off for another year at least the building of the Asylum.

The gentlemen who have thus prevented the acceptance of the report have acted differently from what I expected they would act, and in my opinion have done wrong. However, the responsibility for their thus voting is on them, not on me, and my object in making this statement is not to censure others, but to free

myself and the other gentlemen who were ready to accept the report of the Locating Committee and to carry into effect their recommendation, from the blame of deferring year after year the relief to the Insane, when there is a capital of about \$50,000, ready for this object. My term of office as Trustee expires by not so soon as to preclude the necessity of my resignation; but I do not deem it right or proper to act again on a Board with the majority of whom I differ so much in opinion of what is *right*.

Whatever aspects this controversy may have assumed, the only real point of difference is in the choice of a location. There never has been any other difficulty, any other trouble. It was from the beginning a contest where the Asylum should be built. My duty as an individual subscriber appears clear to me. Relief to the Insane is the true object to be obtained, and if a majority of the Board of Trustees, after due consideration, decide against what I deem the most suitable location in point of fact, and the only proper location because selected by a Committee of their own appointment I shall feel it wrong to attempt to throw any obstacles in their way, for on *them* will devolve the responsibility of relieving the wants of the Insane. In this case I will yield rather than contend, and in place of attempting to break down the Corporation because others have the control of it, I would rather abandon to them my subscription, with the earnest wish that they might succeed in their attempt to alleviate the sufferings of the Insane. If they fail I consider it better that the amount of the subscription should be lost than that I should keep myself in this exciting controversy, and if needs be I will exert myself to the utmost to aid in the establishment of an Asylum which shall accomplish the purpose.

But I am not yet without hope that the Asylum may be built according to the Report of the Locating Committee. The vote of the absent Trustee may be for the Report, and further light may change the opinion of some who voted against it; but if not—if a majority otherwise decide, I should feel it wrong to keep up a state of warfare in order to prostrate their plans, and thus leave the Insane without relief.

SAMUEL E. CORNELL.

Portsmouth Journal, Oct. 5, 1859.

The following remarks on the proceedings of the Trustees we copy from the *National Eagle*, published at Claremont. There is but little doubt but Mr. Hill's discovery will leave the sufferings of the Insane of our State mitigated for the present age.

NEVER FORGOT. The *Keene Mirror* thinks that no compromise can be effected, as there seems to be no probability of effecting one, that the Portsmouth people had better expend their funds upon a hospital of their own, and the citizens of Keene and vicinity take measures to have one established in their midst. We have always supposed that if the decision of the locating committee should be annulled, the Portsmouth subscription would be devoted to the establishment of a hospital in that section. The funds are ample, and we see not why it may not be done. If the people of Concord and Keene then wish similar establishments in their towns, let them increase their funds and appropriate them accordingly.

We fear, however, that the Insane of this State will not soon meet with such ample accommodations. There is great danger, if the decision of the locating committee should be reversed, that nothing will be done at present towards alleviating the sufferings of this class of our citizens. An apathy on the subject will follow that must be the death of any new project. Instead of advancing we shall go backwards in the work of philanthropy, and those who were to be benefited by the recent movement in this State in behalf of the Insane, must remain as they are. For this great state of things they may bless the name of that great man, Deane Hill and his confidants!

Since the above paragraphs were written, the *Portsmouth Journal* of Saturday has been received containing communications on the subject from two of the Trustees, George W. Bates and Samuel E. Cross, of Portsmouth. Mr. Horn, in compliance with the repeated calls of the friends of the Institution, gives an account of the stormy meeting of the Trustees at Concord on the evening of the 13th of September. His statements correspond with what we had previously heard in regard to the proceedings of the meeting of the Trustees. The reason why Dr. Crosby noted a reconsideration of the vote by which the report of the locating committee was rejected, we understand, was this: that as he had, on two previous occasions voted to leave the whole matter of location unconditionally to the committee out of the State, he could not now conscientiously vote to reject their report. There are other members of the board who are in a similar predicament in

regard to their votes, and it is a pity they were not so in regard to the matter of conscience also. Governor Hill, we are told, played the part of a mail man on the occasion, whose insane ravings went further than anything else to convince every member present of the imperious necessity of having the Asylum established at once and on the spot! *Portsmouth Journal*, Oct. 19, 1839.

INSANE ASYLUM.

The following letter has been addressed by a minority of the Board of Trustees of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane, to the Board of Location.

To LUTHER V. BELL, Esq., *Physician and Superintendent of the McLean Asylum for the Insane in Charlestown*, SAMUEL B. WOODMAN, Esq., *Superintendent and Physician of the State Lunatic Hospital in Worcester*, and Wm. H. ROCKWELL, *Superintendent and Physician of the Vermont Asylum for the Insane*:

GENTLEMEN: Disappointed and mortified by the manner in which your Report for the location of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane has been treated by the Board of Trustees, of which we are a minority, we feel that it is due to you as well as ourselves, that you should be put in possession of the circumstances under which you were appointed; and that you should receive assurances of our regret that your report in favor of Portsmouth was not immediately and unhesitatingly accepted and carried into effect by a unanimous vote.

The subscriptions constituting members of the Corporation had been made with a view to the location of the Asylum. There were undoubtedly local feelings and perhaps prejudices on this subject. The Corporation believing that the power of location was vested in them by the charter, elected their eight trustees, being two-thirds of the Board, without any regard to that question. A majority of the Board when formed, saw fit to claim the right of location. How were these clashing interests and claims of power to be reconciled? From the first it was foreseen that there would be a diversity of views and feelings on the subject. For the preservation of harmony therefore, in such a charitable and noble enterprise, it was early proposed and became generally understood that the site of the Asylum should be determined by an impartial committee from without the State, and who were ac-

acquainted with, and would take an interest in the wants of the inmates.

In June last the Corporation at a very full meeting of its members from every part of the State, manifested their willingness to submit the final decision to such a committee, with the understanding that such was also the wish of the trustees, who had their meeting at the same time and place. The Corporation accordingly voted that you should be the committee, and that your report should be final and conclusive. The Board appointed the same committee with a vote that your report should be final and conclusive. These votes were unanimous or next to unanimous in both bodies. Expressions of satisfaction were universal. The opposing parties congratulated each other that the threatening appearances of division had been happily dissipated by these concurrent votes. That your report would be cordially acquiesced in, did not appear to be doubtful to any one.

Judge, then, gentlemen, of our surprise, when, on a meeting of eleven of the twelve trustees, Josiah Quincy, Esq., being absent, in September last, it was found that these pledges and votes were not to be regarded—that the question of location was considered as still open—that no vote confirming your report could be obtained, and that they would prefer to have the whole charity defeated, rather than have the location at Portsmouth. They voted to throw away the \$25,000, offered by Portsmouth, reducing the capital from \$50,000, a sum sufficient to put the institution into successful operation, down to \$25,000—a sum inadequate for that purpose—and look to the State to make up the deficiency by a direct tax on the people. Independently of this great and essential increase of the fund, by a location at Portsmouth, there are other circumstances favorable to that place that might well have given to it your preference. It happens that three of the trustees reside in Concord—they speak of a more central location, by which they mean Concord, and no other spot, as if the territorial centre of such an institution was to control all other considerations, and even the existence of the institution itself.

You who feel a deep interest in the condition of the insane, and would rejoice to see them released from the prisons, dungeons and chains in which they are now suffering in this State, will deeply regret with us, that the charity, which was to give them relief, is by a Board of Trustees, established for their benefit, postponed to a future and distant day. But it is not the delay alone that alarms and grieves us—the charity itself is put in jeopardy and threatened with annihilation.

There seems to us something so extraordinary in these proceedings of the trustees, that we have felt anxious to assure you, that so far as we have been concerned, either as trustees or members of the Corporation, in submitting the question of location to you, we acted in good faith, with a view to harmony, and with a determination to be governed by your decision. We had no idea of requesting of you the performance of a vain and idle labor, or of converting that which was intended for harmony and the best interests of the Insane, into an occasion for protracting their sufferings, or into a cause of disagreement and contention.

With these views and feelings, gentlemen, we ask you to accept the assurance of our continued esteem, respect and confidence.

AMOS TRITCHELL,
GEORGE W. HAVEN,
C. H. ATHERTON,
SAMUEL E. COUES,
DAN'L ABBOTT.

OCTOBER 24, 1838.

Portsmouth Journal, Nov. 2, 1838.

The editor of the *Patriot* insists that Portsmouth is in the State of Maine. If he would only talk so when the apportionment of the State tax is made, he might be of some benefit to us, but under present circumstances his good intentions are rather to be doubted. We suspect if the Asylum for the Insane had been located at Nashua instead of Portsmouth, the editor would have declared that place to be in the State of Massachusetts, and if in Keene or Harlow that they were in Vermont. Finally, we believe it would be a hard matter to convince him regarding the matter of locating the hospital, that any place but Concord was in the State of New Hampshire. The volatile and arrogant Parisian thinks Paris all the world; so does the editor of the *Patriot* think Concord all the State, and the people around—his large subjects who may be *reasonably* taxed to build up his "*Patriot*" and *devote*, and generously give of their substance for the endowment of hospitals, but can have no voice in their location.

We really wish the editor of the *Patriot* would take his slate and pencil and tell the public how much, if any, Concord is nearer the actual centre of population than Portsmouth. We guess the difference is not of material consequence in the present case, even if the State were more than a mere partner in the institution.

Guz.

Portsmouth Journal, Nov. 2, 1838.

INSANITY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. We fear there is "something rotten" in this State, judging from the proceedings about their Insane Asylum. After all their talk, it would seem that this noble design is delayed again, and likely now to be wholly defeated, owing to a party in the Board having charge of it, who are determined it shall be located at Concord, or at all events not at Portsmouth, as decided unanimously by a Committee appointed by the Legislature for the purpose of choosing a site; which Committee consisted of three Superintendents of Blind Asylums, including Dr. Woodworth. Concord is more central than Portsmouth, but everything else is in favor of the latter, which also has the claim of having subscribed \$200,000 to the Institution proposed, while Concord scarcely helped it at all. The only consolation in this emergency is, that if the whole plan is defeated, a private asylum may be got up instead, which must always have very great advantages over one managed by the State—that is, by everybody or nobody, as the case may be—and very troublesome and incompetent bodies they frequently are. Perhaps this may be done at Keene, where, it may be remembered, Miss Fiske lately has squandered \$100,000 for the *New Insane Asylum* incorporated in the State. We hear there is a question, or is likely to be, what shall become of this fund, if the State Institution above mentioned be abandoned without having gone into operation, but after having been incorporated. Common sense would decide the question speedily, but common law may not. Meanwhile the insane are suffering, and the State is disgraced. *Boston Transcript.*

Portsmouth Journal, Nov. 3, 1838.

INSANE HOSPITAL.

It can but be a matter of deep regret to all the friends of the suffering Insane, within and without our borders, that such disparity of views and sentiments obtain and distract the councils of those who have the immediate supervision of the affairs of the Institution for the Insane, committed to their charge. It seems indeed, by a decision of the Board of Trust, that operations are to be delayed until the ensuing June. This great and philanthropic, and even now tardy, enterprise, is to be yet further suspended, for want of harmony of sentiment and unanimity of action in those to whom has been confided its direction. We really fear there is something culpably wrong in this business—we have sent

nothing from the official board, or any of its members, or any other source, which can claim even the merit of a reasonable pretext for such delay. That some predilections, as to location, should exist in the minds of some individuals, is not strange nor unexpected; but that they should suffer themselves to be so uncompromisingly wedded to their prepossessions, in that particular, as to stay the progress of such a benevolent undertaking, nay, even jeopard its ultimate success, does seem strange, and could not have been anticipated. Can it be possible, that the paltry consideration of a few dollars and cents, derived to them or their neighbors through the medium of furnishing the sustenance and other supplies for the inmates of the institution and its dependants, has been permitted for a moment by any of the board to come in conflict with the progress of the *Asylum*? We cannot entertain the suspicion. Or has an overzealous regard to geographical lines, centres of territory or population been the bane of harmony and the machivonts workers of unnecessary delay? Or have political animosities been allowed a place at the deliberations of the board, with the ever active and interminable jealousies which are wont to follow in their train? It has been apprehended by some, that these latter considerations have not been entirely superseded and merged in the general good. Men of high and honorable feelings and truly benevolent intentions, should and will, banish all such considerations from them, as unworthy a moment's thought in view of the progress of such a work, of amelioration and cure of the life, mental and physical, incident to their fellow creatures and themselves—and if such unworthy sentiments have found place and cannot be uprooted in any particular case, let such have the magnanimity to resign his trust, that his place may be filled by a successor disinterested in these points.

The present posture of the affairs of the institution, presents a singular anomaly. Ample funds contributed and secured to carry forward the enterprise with dispatch and success. The patrons of the undertaking, the humane and sympathizing throughout the State and the friends of the "poor demented" everywhere ardently wishing and expecting the expeditious advance of the benign object. The moanings and deprivations of the incarcerated lunatic, and the deep-toned pathetic clanking of their manacles issuing from dungeons dark—the lessened chances of intellectual restoration or even mitigation occasioned by the delay of the adequate remediate treatment which can only be had at a well-regulated Hospital or by the barbarous and unintellectual coercive

measures deemed necessary for the security of the insane, and the security of those around them from their infuriated attacks. The suicides which are frequently occurring in our midst, depriving dependant families of their natural earthly stay and support, and commonly often of its most active, enterprising, adorned and worthy citizens and ornaments which are in most instances traceable to alienation of mind. Homicides with all their appalling circumstances, attributable to the same cause, all, all with one united voice, of supplicative, thrilling eloquence, asking for the unprotracted suspension of the best retreat, where justice can be done to the be- nighted mind—and who in view of this but just demand can oppose, with any satisfaction his own schemes of selfishness? What a responsibility if this act of delay should but perpetrate in one instance an ailment worse than death? Yet the board have taken the responsibility to respond to all this, and those by a cold unsympathetic vote of suspension until June next, and the anxious public have been furnished with two meagre reports by way of cause showing, the one, the report of the locating committee made to the board, and the other, the report of the deluge of the board when the above unwelcome and anomalous vote was passed. The subject has been alluded to by the press generally and not in terms of approval or even acquiescence, with perhaps one or two instances excepted, yet no explanation worthy of the public, or the enterprise, the humanity and objects which set it in operation or of the board itself, has been given. In a matter of such deep and general concernment, it was to be expected that the locating committee, composed as it was of gentlemen who, from their association with kindred institutions have been at once aware of the advantages or disadvantages in every respect, which appertained to the various localities they visited, and the spirit of friendship which existed between some of them would, in their report have adverted to the reasons of their preference falling where it did. There were reasons undoubtedly of a weighty character which determined their choice, and we must acknowledge, that it would have been a matter of no small interest to us to have seen them spread out in detail for the public eye. A few miles travel in passing to and from the institution with the subjects of its care, can be but an object of small moment compared with the certainty of its affording all the desired advantages when attained. The centre of territory or population might not and probably would not combine all the desirable or even necessary advantages. The centre of population, established upon

the basis of the income in this State would be the most equitable, provided all other advantages were concurrent. If it could be definitely ascertained the number of insane and their relative positions in the State, it might also be assumed as a very consistent data for future estimates as to numbers and residences; for we believe the fact is familiar to all who have devoted much attention to the statistics of the insane, that some countries and certain districts of the same country are more liable to the incursions of insanity in its population than others. It does seem to us, that the report of the doings of the board as published, needs explanation. The members of the board surely can assign the reasons which governed their suffrages. Those who acted in favor of the locating report, can tell the public *why* they did so—and those who opposed its adoption can do the same—and the one who voted both ways, probably has reasons which at least renders such action consistent in his own mind—and if he would but deign to give them the form of language, the public might concur with him in that particular.

The motives of those who voted the postponement of future operations until June next, may be susceptible of such explanation as to be a reasonable and entire justification—and we think it due to the community, the State and the individual doctors, that they so explain, for we can assure them there is a sensation abroad, upon the subject, that will know us not until the propriety of such action is made apparent, or the responsibility placed at the doors of those, who have stayed the progress of that Retreat.

Where bill the wonders of the doctored,
Order accounts confusion, forewarns, stage;
Gentler down, to average the nation's vote,
And reason, they gift, reason the slavery went,

Doctor Gazette and Streetful Addressed:

Portsmouth Journal, Nov. 25, 1850.

MR. JOHN B. STRECK, of PORTSMOUTH.

This gentleman, one of the Trustees of the N. H. Asylum, is the humble follower, and eulogist of Isaac Hill. We have just read three columns of their concerted production in the last *N. H. Patriot*. Mr. Streck's professions of candor are all pretence. It is quite evident that his object is to excite vulgar prejudices against the town of Portsmouth, and also the locating

committee, gentlemen whose high character bid defiance to all his slander and malice. He would fain have the public believe that the committee were virtually bribed; and he boldly affirms that the two main arguments used by citizens of Portsmouth why the Asylum should be located here, were that here the *Insane* would be in, or in the vicinity of, "*genteel society*," and would have plenty of *fish*!!! This reminds us of Isaac Hill's old story about "*fish and potatoes*," and "*milk*" too.

Mr. S. makes a great flourish about "*genteel society*," evidently with the base design to induce the enlightened and respectable people of the State to believe, that certain citizens of Portsmouth here incriminated, that the society in our several towns and villages was not "*genteel*." No such invidious comparisons have been made by any respectable citizens of this town. We have long been acquainted with Mr. Stowe, but hereafter can give him little credit as a man of candor or truth. Should we, upon reflection, deem the proposition, under his name, as worthy of notice, we will give it some attention, although not a member of the corporation.

X. Y.

Portsmouth Journal, Dec. 21, 1839.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

To the Corporation and Trustees of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane.

GENTLEMEN:—A brief law argument is now submitted to your consideration, proving conclusively that said Asylum *is* located. We believe that any learned jurist, or any man of sound sense, upon a little reflection, will agree that our position is well founded in law. Every intelligent person will concede that either the corporation, or the Trustees thereof, or else both united, possessed the legal right to locate the institution, so soon as those bodies became organized, and previous to the Act of July 6, 1839. It appears by the extracts from the records of the proceedings of the Corporation, and of the Board of Trustees, as certified by Mr. Crosby, the Secretary, that the Corporation on the 5th June, 1839, appointed Messrs. Bell, Woodward and Rockwell, a Committee to locate the institution—that the Board of Trustees had previously appointed the same gentlemen for the same purpose—that the Corporation on the said 5th day of June passed a vote that the Report of said committee upon the subject of the location, "shall

be FINAL and CONCLUSIVE." The Board of Trustees also, on the same day, passed a vote that said Report "be FINAL and CONCLUSIVE." There had been some discussion relative to the respective rights and powers of the Corporation and the Trustees; but after the passage of those two votes, it may safely be affirmed that all the parties concerned and all who felt a deep interest in the success of the Institution, considered the question as settled, that wherever within the limits of the State, the Committee should see fit to locate the Institution, there it should be established. No language can be more unequivocal than that in which the two votes are expressed. No person expressed a doubt that the decision would be final and conclusive, until after the report was discussed. The conflict of a majority of the Trustees, resulting from disappointed hopes and expectations, or perhaps, the selfish views of two or three of the Trustees who may have exercised an influence over several of the board, who attempted to nullify the decision of the locating committee, was considered as dishonourable by all our high minded citizens. Indeed, a large majority of the Trustees "pledged their honor" to abide by the decision of the locating committee. How much honor a portion of the Trustees had to pledge, who may see fit to violate their honor, is a question irrelevant to our present legal question. We have adverted to the general opinion as expressed, as being founded in common sense, and that common sense fully coincides with our main legal position. On the 6th July, 1839, the legislature passed an act in amendment to and explanatory of the act to incorporate the New Hampshire Asylum. This act in amendment gives to the Trustees the control of the property and concerns of the Asylum, and, among other things, authorizes the Trustees "to enter into and bind the Corporation by such contracts, agreements and engagements, as they may deem advantageous to such Institution," and also gives them "the appropriation and control of all funds, devises, grants of lands and bequests made to such corporation," &c., but there is no attempt by said act to nullify the votes of the Corporation and Trustees to which we have referred, passed on the 7th June, nor has it any allusion whatever to the location of the Institution. Had the act expressly given to the Trustees the *exclusive* power to locate the Institution, it would not alter our main position, because the Corporation or Trustees had the power previous to the date of the act, and if the act gives the *exclusive* power to the Trustees, it would be a ratification of their doings upon that subject, instead of nullifying their vote of the 7th June.

It is therefore wholly immaterial whether the power to locate is vested in the Corporation or Trustees, both having passed similar votes. But the Corporation have not yet accepted the said act of the 4th July, 1883, and by law cannot be compelled to; nor can it be obligatory upon the Corporation, if it impairs the rights of the Corporation previously granted, or affects any vested rights. Under existing circumstances, it may be expedient that the Corporation should not act at all upon the question of accepting said act as amendment. If it is valid, it would be valid without a vote of acceptance. But there seems to be no very weighty objections to the amendatory act, except that the Legislature has undertaken to do what more properly belonged to the Corporation.

In pursuance of the votes of the Corporation and the Trustees, Messrs. Woodward, Bell and Backwell accepted the same, and made the following report and decision, viz: "That they have examined the various places pointed out to them by the committee of the Trustees, and after mature deliberation, do deem that said Asylum be located at Portsmouth, on the conditions offered by said town."

The Corporation's vote solemnly declares that this decision "shall be final and conclusive;" and the Trustees' vote declares the same thing. Corporations speak by their votes—enter into contracts and contracts by their votes, and if in faith can be placed in their recorded votes, the community have no safety in having any dealings and negotiations with them. The law will, however, compel the faithful execution of their votes, especially when through such votes, contracts and agreements are made, or when rights in property are thereby acquired. The common law, as well as the plain principles of justice support this doctrine.

The town of Portsmouth, at a legal town meeting voted to bestow upon this Institution *Twenty-three thousand dollars* and the accumulated interest of that fund, upon the condition that the Institution should be located within the town. The said votes of the Corporation and Trustees, the vote of the town of Portsmouth, and subsequently the decision at the locating committee, constitute a legal agreement or contract between said Corporation or Trustees (immortal within) and said town of Portsmouth, from which neither party can be absolved under the laws of the land. Said Corporation or Trustees have thereby acquired a right to said \$23,000, and in case the town should not act in good faith by a refusal to execute the contract, can recover the same. If voted, the condition under which it was given having been con-

plied with. Can any jurist doubt this position? If not, he must admit that the institution is located. The town has an equal right to insist upon the fulfillment of the contract on the part of the Corporation—for it would be a violation of the principles of law and justice for the town to be compelled to pay over the fund, without having an adequate remedy against the corporation. This contract cannot be rescinded at the election of either of the parties. But should the Corporation, in consequence of the disorderly and illegal conduct of a portion of the Trustees, be dissolved by a vote of the corporators, an event deeply to be deplored, of course under existing circumstances, there would be an end of all legal remedies; and the Trustees, through whose instrumentality such public disgrace and calamity is effected, ought to be held responsible before God and an abused community. It is impossible that we can speak with much clarity in respect to Trustees who would violate the public faith, their own votes, their pledged honor, and the plainest principles of law. And in addition to such perfidious conduct, defend all the exactions for years of the most ardent friends of humanity to provide an Asylum for the poor, miserable and friendless Insane, whose sufferings, in a *degraded and civilized* community, are enough to melt a heart of stone. The present location must be adhered to—*else* the Corporation will be dissolved, and we are fully convinced that many years may roll away before the State would provide sufficient funds for a new Institution.

CUSTOM.

Portsmouth Journal, Dec. 28, 1853.

N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

Although the question in respect to the location seems to be settled conclusively, and the decision is obligatory upon all the parties concerned, yet it would be desirable that enlightened people of this State should acquiesce in the propriety of that decision. We will now therefore offer a few remarks relative to the same.

Those Trustees, who now object to the location of the Asylum, attempt to excuse their opposition to the decision of the locating Committee, because, as they allege, Portsmouth is in a remote corner of the State, somewhere "down East" and that had the committee possessed the necessary qualifications and proper judgment, they would have located the institution in the central part of the State, meaning, doubtless, Concord, where three opposing Trustees reside. Such objections to the qualifications of the Com-

might come too late, nor would they probably have been made by those gentlemen, had Concord been selected although situated at a great distance from the centre of the State, and being far from the centre of population. The claims of Portsmouth, with her nine thousand inhabitants, paying about an 18th part of the state taxes, of the large populous towns of Dover, Somersworth, Newmarket and Exeter in the vicinity, and a large portion of Rockingham and Strafford counties must be overlooked. Why? Because Concord is in the exact centre of the State? Why does not this complaint come from the enlightened Trustees in more distant parts of the State? Because it is not well grounded. And must the people of New Hampshire place implicit confidence in the judgment of the three Concord Trustees and one other, who confess that he has, at least, once been made "a Quipaw of" while the judgment of the three learned men, superintendents of Asylums in other States, chosen on account of their superior knowledge upon the subject, and having no partiality to any town in this State, must go for naught?!

Had the knowledge of Mr. Hill & Co. upon the subject been superior to that of those learned gentlemen, better would it have been to have selected Mr. Hill & Co. in the first instance, with the stipulation that he should first dispose of his real estate in the vicinity of the site proposed for the location in Concord. It is painful to make any personal reflections even when the case requires it, from a sense of duty to the public and the suffering insane. But we are convinced that Concord has been "the central place" whence the obstacles have been thrown in the way. Gen. Low is one of the Concord Trustees, whom we have ever esteemed as an honorable man, and we are unwilling, for a moment, to believe that the narrow, contracted and selfish views of a few of his townsmen will induce him to be the means of defeating a charitable institution for the suffering insane.

We now contend for the rights of Portsmouth; but had the Committee decided to locate in any other town in the State, whether on the borders of Maine, or Vermont, or Massachusetts, or even in that "exact centre of the State," Portsmouth, instead of raising objections, would have acquiesced, and the five thousand dollars subscribed by some of her citizens would have been paid for the benefit of the Asylum. Should the present location not be defeated, the town of Portsmouth, with the private subscriptions of some of her citizens, will pay to the Institution about twenty times as much, being double the amount paid by the

whole State. And this is the golden Acre Messrs. Steele and Hill complain of! It is a noble, a munificent donation, which reflects the highest honor upon the town. Mr. Hill has often eulogized some of our deceased patriots for a small treasure offered to be expended in the revolutionary war, for the public defence. Can this thirty thousand dollars draw from him no language complimentary to the liberality of the town—and is it not freely bestowed for a cause more consonant to Christian benevolence? While Portsmouth solicits no compliments for her liberality, she cannot desire the undeserved aspersions, reproaches, and vulgar prejudices attempted to be excited against her by the publications in the *N. H. Patriot*.

We feel competent, did our limits permit, fully to vindicate the decision of the locating committee; to satisfy the public that a more suitable site for the Asylum than the Cotta or Freeman places, in Portsmouth, could not have been selected in the whole State; that the Asylum would have divers advantages here, not to be realized in any other part of the State; that the buildings can be erected here as well and as cheap as elsewhere, and that many of the materials required can here be more easily procured, and that the main argument of the opposing Trustees has but little weight. Other Institutions of the kind are erected and about being erected in other States. No regard has been had to the coasts of the States, because there are other requisites and advantages vastly more important. Portsmouth is the only seaport in the State, and therefore has certain local advantages which Concord or other towns in the State can never have. It will be considered also that the population is more dense in this section of the State than in the agricultural districts in the interior, and therefore there is in this quarter a greater proportion of the insane. We admit that the distance from Coos county is considerable. And is not Coos nearly equal distant from Concord? As all the towns cannot be equally accommodated in respect to travel, it becomes still to exercise liberal views in respect to the location. And after selecting the most competent committee that could be named, after expressing in advance the fullest confidence in their qualifications and judgment, for two or three disappointed trustees, perhaps poorly qualified to judge of the most suitable location, to turn round and asperse that committee, to charge them, without evidence, with having acted under a corrupt influence, seems to be as ingenuous as it is libelous. Even could it be shown that the committee erred in judgment, that some other

men would have been preferable, the objection ought not to be raised after their decision, which, as we have proved, is "final and conclusive." The location is fixed, and cannot be changed without probably defeating the institution.

In submitting these cursory remarks, we have no other motive than the success of the institution. And we express our full conviction that any other impartial committee, with competent knowledge upon the subject, would coincide with the decision which has been made.

CHAS. C.

Portsmouth Journal, Jan. 1, 1840.

N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The annual meeting of the Corporation was held at the Bell-ingham House in this town on Wednesday evening last, and was well attended. Gentlemen belonging to the corporation were present from Keene, Ashburst, Derry, Nashua, Haverhill, Concord, Dover and the neighboring towns, who with their families made 162 votes.

DR. TWISSMITH of Keene, was re-elected President; HON. ELLIS H. LARSEN, Vice-President; JOHN CLARK, Esq., Secretary; JOHN THOM, Esq., Treasurer, and WILLIAM M. SAWYER, Esq., and DR. CHARLES A. DUFFERN, Trainers to fill the two vacancies vacated by the expiration of the terms of Messrs. CHAS. and HAYES. The above elections were by unanimous vote.

After the choice of officers, U. H. ALBURN, Esq. of Ashburst, introduced the following preamble and resolutions, which were appropriate remarks on the necessity of commencing immediate operations:

Whereas, at a meeting of the Corporation, held at Grosvenor Hall, Concord, June 7th, 1839, the following vote was unanimously adopted: *To-wit*, That SAMUEL B. WOODWARD, LINDSEY V. BELL and WILLIAM H. ROCKWELL be a committee to fix and report to the Trustees the location of the Asylum, and that the report of whom, or any two of whom, shall be final and conclusive;

Whereas, at a meeting of the Trustees held at the Eagle Valley House, Concord, June 26th, 1839, the following vote was passed, *namely*, of the five present Trustees voting for its adoption: — *To-wit*, That the report of the committee of location heretofore appointed, *viz.* SAMUEL B. WOODWARD, LINDSEY V. BELL and WILLIAM H. ROCKWELL, or the report of any two of them be final and conclusive;

And whereas the Locating Committee have reported that they have examined the various places pointed out to them by the Committee of the Trustees, and after mature deliberation, do decide that said Asylum be located at Portsmouth, on the conditions offered by said town,

Therefore Resolved, That the Trustees be requested and that the Trustees chosen by the corporation be and they are hereby instructed, to interpose no obstacles by delay or otherwise, to the carrying of said location at Portsmouth into effect; and that they use officially their best endeavors to cause the said Asylum to be there erected and fitted for use and the institution organized, for the relief of the Insane as soon as may be.

The passage of the above was advocated by the mover, by Judge Durrell, of Dover, Messrs. S. Hale, J. W. Foster, S. E. Combs and several other gentlemen; and opposed by Mr. Pender of Concord, on the ground that as a portion of the Trustees were appointed by the State, he doubted the propriety of instruction by the corporation. If one party has a right to instruct, so has the other. He thought the Trustees ought to act without being directed or controlled by either party. If a majority of the Trustees are to be governed by the Corporation, it in fact takes the business from these hands and nullifies their powers.

Judge Durrell made some remarks in reply. He thought the complaint was not at any action of the board, but for no action at all. He wished for action—immediate action. The fund had now been long paid in, and the donors wished to see it used, or returned to them. The cause of humanity requires immediate action, which is all the resolution asks.

Mr. Atherton remarked, that the usage of the day allowed of the right of instruction to the representatives of the people—and why may not this corporation have the power to request the Trustees to act not in opposition to their own positions, but only agreeably to their own decisions. Surely, requests of this kind are not inconsistent or improper. The Corporation have the power in their own hands to locate—and shall they not have the power to instruct them to carry their own vote into effect.

The resolution was adopted—174 yeas, 2 nays.

Mr. Thom made a statement of the funds, which in round numbers is as follows: Amount of subscription, including that of the State, nearly \$33,000. In cash about \$25,000. Due in notes about \$7,000. This, with the Portsmouth bequest, will make the funds amount to about \$40,000. The money collected and notes, are on interest.

Votes of thanks were passed to Samuel E. Cones and George W. Haven, Esquires, ex-trustees, for their services; and on the suggestion of Mr. Atherton to the town of Portsmouth for their liberal support.

A vote was passed to publish the official proceedings of the meeting in the newspapers. This we have not received, but probably shall next week.

The meeting was characterized by good feeling, and we hope soon to see operations commenced for the erection of this Asylum. The need of the institution is every day becoming more urgent, as we learned by a statement made by Mr. Cones, at the meeting, that those in Massachusetts are so full, that it is not expected much longer to obtain admission for any but residents of that State.

Portsmouth Journal, Jan. 11, 1861

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The following, copied from the *Concord Courier*, shows how Portsmouth has been misrepresented in the State Legislature, but for the efforts of her own delegation, the Asylum might still have been in progress of erection in the bosom of Portsmouth, without the opposition which now threatens its destruction.

"Nothing will be done by the Trustees until after the next session of the Legislature, by which time it will be settled whether the power of location rests. We do not believe the N. H. Asylum will ever be built at Portsmouth. The report of the Locating Commission would have been filed but for the course of the *Portsmouth Representatives*, on the last night of the last session. Portsmouth folks must thank their own delegation for the result of this matter, as the additional act was by a vote of the House postponed indefinitely by a majority of 31, when James called for the yeas and nays, and, he, his colleagues, and most of his party, voted against the indefinite postponement, and the bill was immediately passed. By the power given to the Trustees in this additional act, the Asylum will be located in some 'vested place' in the State, and the State House is in quite a central place, and the Asylum should be within a mile of the State House. The Portsmouth gentlemen should not accuse Concord people of being very selfish in this matter, for its own it entirely to the Portsmouth

delegation that the Asylum is not to be located at the corner of the State?"

In the selection of our next candidates for Representatives, let us send men who have at least as much regard for the local interests, of Portsmouth, as they have for partizan popularity in the State.
Portsmouth Journal, Feb. 4, 1840.

The Messrs. ISAAC HILL and JOHN H. STELLER.

That you as trustees on the part of the State, have been the means of preventing any progress being made in erecting the requisite buildings for the S. H. Asylum we have good authority for believing. The statement is made by one of the Trustees, and we therefore now call upon you to give an explicit answer to the following question: Did you, or did you not, just before the Trustees acted upon the question of accepting the report of the committee appointed to locate the Asylum, earnestly solicit one of the trustees either to vote against, or to vote to postpone the acceptance of, the report, under the positive assurance you gave him, that you would soon lay before him evidence, that the construction had been constructed on a sound?

To charge you directly with the perpetration of such an offence were the allegation false, might perhaps be held to be a libel. We therefore put the interrogatory, are you guilty or not guilty, upon your arraignment before the bar of an impartial public? You can easily answer the question. Your silence would be construed as a confession of your guilt. But should you deny it, the Trustees would doubtless confront you with sufficient testimony, and there is some evidence and circumstances which would corroborate his evidence, in addition to the charges already made in the *N. H. Patriot* casting suspicion and reproach upon the characters of the Committee. Who will believe, that Messrs. HILL, ROCKWELL and WOODMAN could be corrupted or bribed?

We feel confident, that you never had any such suspicion. The high characters of the gentlemen protect them against it. And do you really believe that the citizens of Portsmouth would be guilty of the infamous deed of attempting to corrupt them? You know well, that if you made that bold declaration, the moral characters of the latter are equally implicated. By this base stratagem, if the story is true, you carried your point, and prevented the acceptance of the Report; and thereby our suffering, unhappy insane,

remain another year in distress and mental darkness. Do you not feel that a deep responsibility rests upon you?

FRANKLIN.

Portsmouth Journal, Feb. 16, 1840.

WINGWATER. The last *N. H. Patriot* contains a piece, "long, and (meant to be) hurried," in which it is asserted that the town of Portsmouth has not given, and *should* give her surplus to the Asylum for the Insane, and stronger still it is asserted that the "State *never* will consent to release any town." &c. The newspaper which detailed such assertions is exactly in keeping with the *sentiments* which has kept back the erection of the asylum. Who is this that undertakes to say what the State will never do?

Portsmouth Journal, Feb. 22, 1840.

ISDALE HOSPITAL. Among the articles in the warrant for the town meeting is one for the reconsideration of the vote passed in June last appropriating the Surplus Revenue fund to the erection of an Insane Asylum. When this article was published, we were so curious to know what agency *Isaac Hill* had employed in this deplorable resort to defeat the erection of the Asylum in Portsmouth, that we requested a sight of the petition for the insertion of the articles in the warrant. The whole mystery was solved at once, when we found it in the chirography of the Hon. SAMUEL CROMWELL whose name headed the petition.

Mr. C. is well known to be hard in glove with Isaac Hill, and is endeavoring to betray him in this effort to remove the last chance left for the location of the Asylum in this place. Those who are in favor of sustaining Mr. Hill's efforts to withhold every public institution from Portsmouth, will vote for the measures of his agent, Mr. CROMWELL, and give up the idea of ever seeing an Asylum for the suffering insane in this section of the State.

Portsmouth Journal, March 21, 1840.

A DISTRESSED CONDITION.

A few weeks since, an anonymous writer in the *Journal* submitted a few plain questions to Messrs. Isaac Hill and John B. Stock, soliciting an answer whether they were guilty of a most base imputation upon one of the Trustees of the N. H. Asylum, in charging corruption and bribery upon the locating committee?

The only answer to those questions which Mr. Steele chose to make, is a short article published in the *Journal* and *N. H. Patriot*, in which he declines, in fact, to make any answer unless some responsible individual will appear as their accusers under his own signature. He might as well have declined answering, until the Grand Jury should present a bill of indictment against them. The first characters in England felt obliged to answer the accusations of Junius, an anonymous writer. Now instead of making all this parade in the public papers, how easy would it have been for Mr. Steele, had he and Mr. Hill been innocent, simply to say so. Then the duty would have devolved upon the Trustee imposed upon, to offer evidence of the charge, and we should not that he is ready to support the charge, should Messrs. Hill and Steele venture to deny it. The fact that they declined making any answer, will create strong suspicions, at least. We have the whole story from such high authority, that we have entire confidence in its truth, and we therefore think that Messrs. Hill and Steele will not venture to deny it. Let them, then, come out, if innocent, and relieve themselves from their present distressed condition; and should they deny the story, perhaps now in general circulation, we will furnish them with the name of the honorable Trustee, who now deeply regrets the gross imposition practiced upon him—an imposition or stratagem, which has thus far, defeated all measures for the erection of the requisite buildings.

But, on the other hand, if they are guilty, then of course, they well know the name of the Trustee imposed upon; and, therefore, why should we feel surprised, that they should resort to all manner of expedients and artifices to screen themselves from the popular resentment? But as friends to those gentlemen we would explicitly say to them, "If you are innocent, say so,—if guilty, you have a legal right to act as you now do." The public have, however, a right to form their own opinions, judging from the conduct of men. The people of New Hampshire feel a deep interest in the establishment of an Asylum for the insane, and they will inquire into the true cause of the defeat of so desirable an institution.

A CITIZEN.

Portsmouth Journal March 24th, 1840.

The vote of this town, giving to the N. H. Asylum for the Insane, its portion of the Surplus Fund, on the condition that the said Asylum be located in this town, has been approved by the Legislature, accepted by the Corporation, and, in our opinion, it

is not in the power of the town, if it had the disposition, to recall the money, until it is manifest that the Hospital will not be located here according to agreement.

The honor of the town is concerned in this matter; it has become a party to a contract from which it cannot be relieved, either at its own option or by the permission of the State; unless the contract be violated by the other party, or the Corporation dissolved by mutual consent. The state of the matter is this: The Corporation appointed a Committee to fix the location of the Hospital; that Committee was approved also by the Trustees by a formal vote, and it was mutually agreed that the decision of the Committee should be final and conclusive; so, whether the power of location rested with the Corporation or Trustees, (on which point there was a difference of opinion at the time,) it will not be questioned that their mutual power was binding. Under this agreement the Trustees, in the first place, advertised for proposals from the town wishing for the location. This town, among others, by a formal vote, gave a vote of assent, on the condition that the location should be here, and on the further condition that the Legislature should permit the transfer. The Legislature, by a law distinctly recognizing the vote of the town, did permit the transfer. The location was fixed here by the Committee constituted for the purpose; thus the contract was completed, and we hold it to be competent for this town now to insist on its fulfillment on the part of the Corporation.

The Legislature could not annul the contract if it could, unless all parties be agreed, for it is prohibited by the Constitution of the United States, from passing any law impairing the obligation of contracts.

It has been asserted by those who have been trying every way to shut some tax by which to rob Portsmouth of her rights in Old money, that the law passed by the Legislature subsequent to the agreement above referred to, places the executive powers in the Board of Trustees, and that they have a right to locate where they please. It is true that such was the case with reference to the subsequent action of the Trustees respecting our debts, but the law could not require any agreement already entered into, and we are informed by a member of the late Legislature, that it was never intended that it should; that it was perfectly understood at the time, that the power of location was vested in the Committee appointed by mutual agreement of the Trustees and Corporation, and lastly, that should any subsequent vote on the part of

the Trustees, absolving them from their former vote, leaving the location to the Committee and abiding by their decision, shows conclusively that they so regarded it themselves, and that they never contemplated exercising that power, until the decision of the locating Committee was made known.

The town of Portsmouth had a moral and legal right to the location; this right has been acknowledged and confirmed by the almost unanimous vote of the Corporation, and their Trustees instructed to carry the location into full effect. It now remains to be seen whether they will conform to this democratic doctrine, and obey the will of their constituents or whether they will suffer themselves to be dictated to by the people of Concord. Meanwhile no remedy nothing is saying that the town of Portsmouth will take no steps in the premises until it is decided whether the Asylum is to be located according to contract. When this is settled and if it should be decided against the location here, it will be time enough to talk about a new disposition of the surplus fund. But while things remain in their present state, it is, to say the least, highly dishonorable to exhibit any symptoms of backing out.

From the N. H. Gazette.

Portsmouth Journal, March 28, 1846.

INSANE ASYLUM.

At the town meeting of Portsmouth, the moderator, having stated the article in the warrant relative to the surplus revenue as next in order—

Mr. Cushman submitted the following motion, viz.:

Resolved, by the town of Portsmouth, in legal town meeting, that the vote or votes passed by said town of Portsmouth, at a Town Meeting, held on the 10th day of June last past, passing or adopting a resolution relative to the Surplus Revenue of the United States, in the following words and figures, namely—*Resolved*, by the town of Portsmouth in legal meeting assembled for that purpose, that that portion of the surplus revenue of the United States deposited with the town of Portsmouth under the Act of the State Legislature, approved January 17th, 1837, be hereby relinquished for the benefit of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane, on the condition that the said Asylum shall be located in said town of Portsmouth. Provided the Law of the State Legislature of 1835, in amendment of said Act of Jan 17th, 1837, shall be so far repealed or amended as to permit the transfer of said deposits to said Institution"—&c, and the same are hereby reconsidered, re-

pealed, amended and made void and of no effect:

Resolved, That the Representatives of said town of Portsmouth to the General Court be instructed, and the Senator of District number One be requested to use their influence to obtain an act of the Legislature to release said town from the contract made between the State of New Hampshire and the town of Portsmouth to refund said surplus revenue to the State, when requested so to do, that the same may be distributed among the inhabitants of said town per capita.

Mr. K. Shaban moved the following amendment, *viz.*:

Provided, the Corporation and Trustees of the Insane Hospital do not comply with the conditions of the donation made by the town, on or before the first day of July next.

Mr. Samuel Spinner moved the following additional amendment, *viz.*:

Provided that all persons residents of this town, of a personal and real estate not exceeding \$1000 free of expense to them,

[To find the meaning of this provision would require a Philadelphia lawyer.]

Which amendments Mr. Cushman accepted as additions to the motion.

Upon which Mr. Clappert submitted the following preamble and resolution in pursuance heretofore the whole subject, *viz.*:

"Whereas the Legislature of this state on the 2d day of July, A. D. 1828, passed an act to incorporate certain persons in the name of 'The New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane'—and whereas the corporation, created by passage of said act, at a meeting held on the 7th day of June 1829, voted that Samuel B. Woodward, Luther V. Bell and William B. Beckwith be a committee to fix and report to the Trustees appointed on the part of said corporation and the State the location of the Asylum, the report of whom, or any two of whom, *shall be read and considered*—and whereas at a meeting of the Trustees held on the same 7th day of June 1829, the Trustees, voted that the report of the same committee of location *be read and considered*—and whereas at the report of any two of them, *be read and considered*—and whereas the town of Portsmouth, on the 10th day of June 1829, adopted the preamble and resolutions, *viz.*, transferring this town's portion of the surplus revenue to the Asylum, on condition that the Asylum should be located in Portsmouth, a copy of

which vote is published in the Journal of 25th January ult., and whereas the Legislature of this State, on the 4th day of July 1838, passed an act declaring that it shall be lawful for any town in this State, pursuant to a vote of such town at any legal meeting duly holden for that purpose, which has already been passed, or which may hereafter be passed, to transfer and convey to the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, in aid of the benevolent objects of that institution, that portion of the public money of the United States deposited with such town by virtue of a law of this State passed Jan. 13th, 1837, on condition that said institution shall be located in such town, any law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding;—provided that nothing in this act shall be so construed as to release any such town from their obligation to return said money, or any part thereof to the State Treasurer pursuant to the provisions of the act to which this is in addition.”

And whereas subsequently, on the 11th day of September 1839, the said locating committee made report to said Trustees, “that they had examined the various places pointed out to them by the committee of the Trustees, and after mature deliberation, so recite that said Asylum be located at Portsmouth, on the conditions offered by said town.” And whereas subsequently, on the 9th day of January 1840, at the annual meeting of the members of said New Hampshire Asylum, the said corporation passed the following votes, *viz.*, “that the Trustees be re-elected, and the Trustees chosen by the corporation be and they are hereby instructed, to interpose no obstacles, by delay or otherwise, to the said location being fixed at Portsmouth, and that they use officially their best endeavors to cause the Asylum for the relief of the insane to be there erected and fitted for use;” and also, “that said corporation accept the said donation, with the tender of their thanks to the town of Portsmouth for their distinguished liberality.”

And whereas the doings and proceedings of the said Corporation, Trustees and this town as aforesaid, in pursuance of the laws of the State, do constitute a contract, which is obligatory upon the parties thereto, which neither party can in good faith or in law rescind, except with the consent of the parties thereto.

Therefore *Resolved*, That the further consideration of the two articles in the town warrant relative to reconsidering, repeating and annulling the said vote passed on the 30th day of

June last, upon the subject of relinquishing the surplus revenue of the United States deposited with this town to the Ayrton for the Indians—and also of applying to the Legislature to release this town from the contract made between the State and this town to refund said surplus revenue to said State, &c., and also the several motions made upon this subject, he *declined public judgment*.

Mr. Samuel Cushman and Mr. Samuel Spencey warmly opposed the motion to postpone. Mr. Cushman alluded to charges that had been made that he acted under the influence of certain gentlemen of Concord, which he treated as a shadow upon his reputation, and most solemnly denied that he had any communication directly or indirectly with any individual of Concord on the subject—and he had even been opposed to the course the town had adopted, and still is—that the meeting which passed the vote on the 10th of June was not immorally conducted, and that the vote ought to be reconsidered. He concluded at some length that the surplus revenue ought to be distributed among the taxable polls of the town.

Several gentlemen attempted to address the meeting in favor of the motion, but for a long time were overpowered by the noise and tumultuous uproar, which the Moderators in vain attempted to suppress. And it was partly only in part at the request of Mr. Spencey to an assumed pliancy which seemed to be under his influence.

Mr. G. W. Haven was finally permitted to make some remarks, which made a favorable impression upon all candid and intelligent persons present. He stated some of the great benefits to be derived from the institution, and deprecated the woful course now attempted to be pursued. He also stated what Mr. Hill of Concord had disclosed to the Trustees on the authority of Mr. Cushman, representing the people of Portsmouth as being somewhat opposed to having the Ayrton in their own town. This matter being thus brought to Mr. Cushman's recollection, he admitted Mr. Haven's statement, with some qualifications, permitting that he is off of the case entirely.

Mr. Greenleaf made a few remarks in favor of the amendments offered by Mr. Ayrton, and said that in case measures were not adopted for covering the buildings within the time mentioned in the amendments, he should then be in favor of dividing the surplus per capita, but wholly protested against the

ciding it, as Mr. Fishman wished, according to the polls.

Mr. J. W. Foster ably advocated the motion for postponement—represented the importance to community of having the Asylum, and that should the present plan be defeated, a long period would probably elapse, before any successful measures would be adopted to establish an Asylum. His arguments were well adapted to stimulate the friends of humanity to persevere in their present laudable efforts to meliorate the present condition of the insane.

Mr. Crosscut, in support of his motion in favor of an indefinite postponement of the whole subject, contended that a vote to reconsider the vote of the town adopted on the 10th June last, would be inoperative, and a nullity—that the town, having made the donation upon the condition that the Asylum should be located in this town, in accordance with the act of the Legislature—and the committee, appointed by the Corporation and the Trustees, having decided that the Institution should be located in this town according to the terms offered—and the Corporation having afterwards, on the 5th day of January last, by a vote of the corporation accepted that donation, and also instructed the Trustees to proceed in erecting the requisite buildings, the town has therefore entered into such solemn contract with the Corporation and Trustees, that the town cannot be released from that contract by a reconsideration of the vote passed on the 10th June—that corporations and towns speak by their recorded votes, and when by such votes they enter into contracts, it is not in the power of one party, without the consent of the other, to rescind such contract—and that the attempt so to do would be in violation of law and good faith, and tend to bring great reproach upon the town. He contended that in case the town should now appropriate this fund to a different use, the Corporation, should the Trustees proceed to erect the buildings now in progress—of the report of the leading committee, could still recover the amount of that donation, and in case of a suit at law, the town could make no legal defence—that an unreasonable delay to erect the buildings, or whatever might be fairly excused to be a refusal to accept the donation might discharge the town from their liability to the Corporation—but at present the evidence was the other way. He would not consent to do anything which would implicate the honor of the town, whatever may be the con-

dict of a part of the Trustees—and therefore hoped, that no action would, at present, be had, making a different appropriation of the fund, especially as it has been disposed of at a legal meeting which was very fully attended, and the subject was then fully discussed and maturely considered.

The result of a poll of the house was 25 in favor, 228 against the motion.

We understand that many who would have voted in the affirmative, lost their votes in consequence of the passages leading into the hall being completely blocked up by the supporters of Mr. Chisholm's motion. A scene of disorder ensued too disgraceful to mention, and such as we have before witnessed in a town meeting. The Moderator left his station, late in the evening, and for a long time attempted to clear the assembly. After he resumed his station, such was the result, that a large portion of the meeting could hear nothing distinctly which the Moderator said. Several attempting in a loud voice, to address the Moderator, could not, as appeared, be heard by him—and amid the uproar and confusion, a hand vote was taken on Mr. Chisholm's motion, and we are not alone in believing that a majority of hands were against it. At all events, the Moderator did not attempt to count, and indeed he could not, with accuracy. It is doubtful if the Clerk could record the motion as prevailing, yet not certain that he could not "guess at it."

Although the Moderator went through the day with an impartiality which reflected credit upon him, yet in his decision on the above vote, we are not alone in questioning him to error. It would, however, be poorest sense in silence, were the subject not an important one in which the character of our town is implicated.

The vote on the indefinite postponement of the article in the warrant was taken by putting the house; and those who were in favor of the indefinite postponement were called upon to pass in front of the Moderator, and he counted. Those who claimed to be in the hall in favor of the postponement, immediately voted. An opposing vote was obtained by the majority, and the Moderator was compelled to have his clerk to drive them back. About thirty more voters then joined—and the voting was again obstructed, and the voters kept back.

Those who were in favor of recalling the appropriation for the Asylum, were then called upon to pass, and probably scarce all who were in its favor were on the ground and voted. After they had passed around, the Moderator was requested to receive the votes of those in favor of the postponement who were prevented from voting previously. The Moderator decided that they could not then be received; and by the small number of 239 out of 1200 voters, it was resolved not to postpone.

The hall was as full at the time, as we have at almost any previous time witnessed. The whole proceeding would have disgraced even the halls of Congress.

Mrs. W. Haven gave notice that he would move a reconsideration of these votes relating to the Surplus Revenue, at the adjourned meeting.

Portsmouth Journal, March 28, 1849.

THE INSANE ASYLUM.

MUNICIPAL BUSINESS. The adjourned Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday next, when the resolutions adopted at the late meeting respecting the Insane Asylum will be again taken up, and we trust will be so disposed of as to remove the stigma which their adoption would cast upon our town. On the result of the meeting last week, the opinions of our neighbor of the Gazette so nearly coincide with our own, that we copy them. The action of the Town on Wednesday evening last, on the article in the warrant to see if the town would repeal the vote it passed last year at a special meeting, giving its portion of the Surplus Revenue to the N. H. Asylum for the insane on the condition it be located in this town, shows conclusively that the town has no disposition to back out of the contract if the Trustees will go on and locate the Hospital as they have solemnly agreed to, within a reasonable time. We were glad to see this regard for the honor of the town so distinctly manifested; it is an emphatic rebuke to those who have sought so industriously to create the impression that the vote of last year was not a fair expression of the feelings of the town, and will teach them that in spite of the most excitement they got up in favor

of a distribution of the Surplus Fund, they cannot bribe the people from the paths of honor and good faith.

Mr. Sheldon's amendment to Mr. Cushman's resolution to repeal the vote of last year, fixing the 1st day of July next as a limit sufficiently ample for the Trustees to act upon the subject of location, was perhaps justly deemed by some necessary to have the matter settled within a definite and reasonable time.

The amendment of Mr. Spinney, if it has any bearing, defeats the original resolution in any contingency. The English of it, as we understand it, is that if those who are now worth \$1000 are admitted to the Hospital free of expense to them, the vote of last year shall be repealed, &c., provided the corporation and Trustees do not comply with the conditions of the donation of the town by the first of July; but if they are not admitted free of expense, then the vote of last year remains untouched, whether the Asylum is located here by the first of July or not.

We think it not unlikely that Mr. Spinney meant that his amendment should have a meaning the very opposite of what it now expresses and instead of shutting out the class he speaks of from a free admission, he intended to admit them free. The confusion at the time was not favorable for correct action, and it is well, perhaps, that the amendment reads as it does. We doubt whether on mature reflection Mr. S. would wish to provide exclusive privileges for any class in community, rich or poor. He generally acts from the impulse of the moment and sometimes with good judgment, but his zeal for the poor on this occasion carried him too far—he sought for the poor what he would deny to the rich, and in this he erred, and especially so inasmuch as he attempted to add a new condition to the former resolution, which he himself voted for and sustained to our positive knowledge. Besides he well knows the contract, at least on our part, is closed—we cannot impose new conditions; if he would make provision for any class, he should have done it last June, when the donation was made. The income poor however, will probably be aided by the State, by an annual donation for their benefit. For many years past, the State has voted annually \$1200 for the indigent deaf and dumb to be sent to the Institution at Hartford, Ct., and \$1250 for indigent blind at Boston, and we doubt not the State will be quite as liberal in providing

for the insane poor in an institution of our own.

Some have mentioned that the poor boy had an equal share with the rich in buying the location of the Hospital; this is true to some extent, so far as concerns the Surplus Fund, but it should be remembered that the rich in addition to their share of the Surplus Fund, have subscribed towards the same institution the munificent sum of \$7,000, and we understand that at least two individuals have already made provision in their wills for handsome legacies to the same benevolent object, should the institution be located here according to agreement. And it should further be considered that this town is held responsible for the return of the Surplus Fund when called for by the United States, in which event the tax would be put upon property and consequently the rich would have to pay the principal portion of it. Taking all things into consideration we think it is about as fair for the poor as it is for the rich. We cannot see but they have all done their part, and we cannot but regret to see any disposition, however limited, to back out from our liberal gift—a gift which is as honorable to the town as it is beneficial to her interests.

R. S. — Since writing the above we understand that there is a general disposition to reconsider the Resolutions and Amendments, passed at the late Town Meeting on this subject and either to postpone the whole subject and await the result of the meeting of the Trustees to be held in June next, or extend the time for locating the Hospital to the 1st of September next. The feeling in favor of some such action is general and will no doubt be carried by acclamation. We can think of no one who will be likely to oppose it, but the *Honorable* mover of the Resolutions.

LOCAL ADVANTAGES.

We would ask those who see no advantage in having a Hospital for the Insane located in our town where our poor insane may find relief without going fifty miles into the country as they would have to do should the Hospital not be located here, to look at the subject in another point of view. Look at it as a matter of pecuniary interest to the town. Thus: if the Hospital is not located here, we get the Surplus distributed back, to be sure, but what object is it?

spice—it would be forgotten in two days afterwards and we should hardly be paid for the time spent in quarrelling about it. But the money subscribed by the State(\$18,000)now consisting of bank stock in the N. H. Bank, would be taken out of the business of the town and carried away to Concord, and so would the subscription of our citizens, making together about \$25,000 that would be taken out of the town. Whereas if the institution be located here, as it will be if our citizens hold on to their rights, not only this \$25,000 will be kept here, but subscriptions from other places, amounting altogether,(the donation of this town included,)to some \$60,000! will come with the institution, enabling it in the end, to scatter some \$20,000 among our laborers and mechanics, for the erection of buildings, and perhaps, \$10,000 per annum, afterwards, for subsistence, nurses, help, &c. At this rate, then, the town would get back the \$25,000 five times over in ten years, and where is the man so unwise that he would reject this profitable investment of the Surplus Fund, for the sake of getting his share of it, amounting, perhaps, to a couple of dollars! If there be any, they know not which side of their bread their butter is on. Have they not discernment enough to see the motives of some who would sacrifice the true interests of our own town? We would beg of them to stand by their town, "valak or wain." We see, in Concord, that Federalists and Democrats, rich and poor, unite in one common effort to obtain the location of the Hospital; they stick together like wax; and why cannot the same unanimity exist here? Is there really a difference of feeling among our people on the subject? or is the division the result of the combinations of the enemies of this town, who operate here through agencies having an interest in pleasing them—agents who have ever steadily opposed the erection of the Hospital in this place, who misrepresented at Concord, the attendance and character of the meeting which made the donation to the Hospital, who wrote to our Representatives to persuade them to reject the instructions of the town, and finally, who have been the public echo of the Concord papers of both parties, on the same subject, on all occasions?

Portsmouth Journal, April 4th, 1847.

Rev. Editor.—If our town is to violate a sacred contract with the Trustees of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, and the Surplus Revenue voted to said institution becomes again the property of the town, it becomes us to dispose of it in a manner that will redound to the honor and interest of the town.

"That the same may be distributed among the inhabitants of said town per capita," (exact from the resolution passed on the 24th.) Can anything be imagined more ridiculous? Let us create with it a common School Fund to advance the cause of education; or a Public Lyceum Room, and support as it will go, courses of lectures on scientific and instructive subjects; or a Public Library and Reading Room for the benefit of the industrious poor among us. There are very many ways in which this money can be disposed that will be of lasting benefit to us; but do not let us adopt the selfish and contemptible mode of division per capita. We shall be the contempt and laughing-stock of the liberal and enlightened around us, and a by-word and reproach for those that come after us. But I trust that these remarks are in vain, and that the money will be given as originally intended. To appropriate it to aid those unfortunate beings among us who are bereft of reason, is what every philanthropist and friend of humanity would wish; and hard is the heart of that man who from interested or party motives would withhold it from this noble cause.

Q.

Portsmouth Journal, April 4th, 1899.

TOWN BUSINESS.

The adjourned town meeting was held on Wednesday last, and well attended.

Voted, That all the votes passed at the Town meeting of the 24th of March, in relation to the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, be reconsidered.

Voted, That the articles in the warrant relating to the Surplus Revenue, be indefinitely postponed, *all cons. & says*.

The articles above indefinitely postponed, are the following: To see the town will reconsider, repeal and annul the votes passed by said town, at a town meeting held in said town on

the tenth day of June past, relative to the relinquishment of the Surplus Revenue of the United States, deposited with said town, to the Asylum for the Insane."

"To wit: 2. The town of Portsmouth will apply to the Legislature to release said town from the Contract made between the State of New Hampshire and said town, to refund said Surplus Revenue to said State, that the same may be distributed among the inhabitants of said town according to the Polls."

The result of the action of the town on the subject of the Insane Asylum and the Surplus Revenue, as expected above, is as honorable to the town as its citizens were unanimous in adopting it. Mr. Cochran, as the agent of Mr. Hill and Dr. Bowe, opposed with all his might all measures which might tend to benefit the State Institution in this vicinity. So opposed was Mr. Cochran's agency, that even his strongest supporter at a former meeting declared that the meeting was developed "obscure and tame," and called for the indefinite postponement. When the polls were opened, 251 passed in favor of the institution, in favor of indefinite postponement. When the contrary was called for, the passage was not deferred to a single individual.

The fact is, the same who at the meeting of the 24th ult. were under the impression that the surplus was to be bestowed upon the Asylum without any regard to its location.

As the N. H. Patriot has taken pains to publish in its State that Portsmouth has withdrawn its offer, when in fact the vote of March 24th only passed a law for the acceptance — will the editor do the justice to publish the result of the above meeting.

Portsmouth is as much pledged to the Asylum, as the trustees are bound to abide by the decision of the meeting committee. The honor of Portsmouth will be maintained.

Portsmouth Journal. April 11, 1851.

CORRESPONDENT. In the last N. H. Patriot, John B. Steele Esq., Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the N. H. Asylum addresses the Trustees, saying: "It is agreed to locate the Asylum somewhere 'within 10 or 12 miles of the State House,'" and in the exposition, "centered spot" he says he does not mean Concord, but wishes no town or city Concord should be excluded. The "centered spot" of the State would be about 25 or 30 miles southerly of the State House. Why did he try

draw his line of circumference, of 20 miles in diameter, round the true centre? Mr. S. requests not the opinion of the Corporation, but the Trustees only, thus assuming the fact, never admitted by the Corporation that the right of location is in the Trustees. But Mr. S. cannot be ignorant of the fact, that the location is already fixed, and that the Trustees have no legal power to reverse it; and that the Trustees by their vote, and also word of honor, solemnly pledged themselves to abide by the decision of the committee of location. We therefore marvel at his strange appeal!

Six of the twelve Trustees have requested Mr. S., their chairman, to call a special meeting of the board, in order to transact all necessary business. Why does he refuse? Dare he not trust their united councils? No—he calls, in advance, for their individual pledges to his views, restricted within a small circle round the State House? !!! And does he expect that any of them, separately, would agree to violate the public faith, and the honor of the Trustees, solemnly pledged? We advise Mr. Steele, as he values his public reputation, to grant the request of the Trustees, and suffer them to hold a legal meeting. And when assembled, he can lay before them the evidence to which he has publicly alluded, and which he has repeatedly been publicly called upon to adduce, (if any he has) that the locating committee were corrupted. Unless he can substantiate that grave charge, we trust that he will not transfer the present location to that peculiar "central spot," which seems to have a magical effect upon his mental vision!

We learn that after Dr. Woodward had declined accepting his appointment as one of the locating committee, Mr. Steele, with two other trustees, travelled to Worcester to prevail upon him to accept; that Mr. Steele was more importunate than the other trustees, and declared to Dr. Woodward that his acceptance of the trust was the only way to prevent the difficulties which would otherwise arise in respect to the location, that after his long persuasion Dr. W. concluded to accept; and that Dr. W.'s travelling expenses have not yet been paid.

Mr. S. now seems to manifest most tender feelings for "the poor suffering insane." And this is creditable to the benevolence of his heart. If sincere, let him call the board together *immediately*, that immediate measures may be

abused, to mitigate, if not end, their sufferings. By so doing, he would gratify the public, the Corporation, and, at least, half of the Trustees, and also remove, perhaps, any suspicions of covetise: he may feel in respect to the several hundred sufferers, whose deplorable condition excites his compassion.

HOWARD.

Portsmouth Journal, April 25, 1840.

MR. ESTLIN:—If \$20,000 dollars will provide any sort of an Asylum for the insane to be found among the 20,000 inhabitants of the State of New Hampshire, what sort of an Asylum would \$7,000 dollars provide for the insane to be found among the 8,000 inhabitants of the town of Portsmouth?

Let us make a little calculation, reckoning the inhabitants of the State as round numbers at 200,000, and those of Portsmouth at 8,000. Portsmouth has paid, or will pay, if the Asylum be located in that town, the sum of 20,000 dollars towards its erection and support. The State furnishes 15,000 dollars from the public funds, and the private subscription in the whole State (excluding Portsmouth) amounts to 15,000 dollars more. (We are round numbers for convenience, and that are understood to approximate nearly to the truth.) Set aside the State subscription, of which Portsmouth pays her part, and then let us see how much the people of Portsmouth have contributed as citizens, towards the furtherance of this humane project. The 8,000 inhabitants of Portsmouth pay \$2,25 for each man, woman and child. The 200,000 inhabitants of the remainder of the State pay the policy sum of five cents and a quarter for each man, woman and child; and yet the Portsmouth people are called selfish in wishing the hospital to be located in this town! If they be selfish, what must be the character of the rest of the State, in the opinion of an impartial observer? We would not be understood to imply a word in disparagement of those towns which have made such liberal offers to ease the Asylum should it be located within their borders. They have done well; their proposed donations are generous; but, with the exception of Concord, their offers would do but little towards the support of the Hospital. Legally, the Asylum is already located at Ports-

month, but if the remainder of the State, through their appointed trustees, refuse to act on the decision of the locating committee, Portsmouth would do well to leave the rest of the State to take care of itself, and proceed to erect an Hospital independently. The charter having been violated, the citizens of Portsmouth might legally reclaim their private subscriptions, and adding them, with a few more which might be obtained, to the fund appropriated by the town, Portsmouth might build an Asylum fully adequate to accommodate its own insane, and as many more from other towns as could pay a proper sum for their board. Thirty thousand dollars would certainly support an hospital one half as extensive as one which 10,000 dollars would support — or nearly in that proportion. If this sum be inadequate to the wants of Portsmouth, how entirely insufficient must 10,000 dollars be for the whole State?

If 2000 inhabitants give 50,000 dollars, how much should 200,000 inhabitants give? Why — one million of dollars! so that to start upon as good footing as Portsmouth, the State should commence with one million of capital. Under these circumstances, why should Portsmouth stoop to crave help, that the State would build them an hospital? Why should they who furnish, each, \$5.55, stand in the light of beggars to those who subscribe the magnificent sum of 5 cents each?

If the trustees refuse to act on the decision of the locating committee, let the Portsmouth subscribers procure that the charter of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane be annulled; and we have not a doubt that some individuals of every town in the State would generously tender their assistance towards the erection of an Asylum at Portsmouth. Meanwhile let us wait until the trustees decide on something, or confirm their former decision by *volunté*.

Portsmouth Journal, May 2, 1840.

N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

To the Citizens of New Hampshire.—The establishment of an Asylum for the Insane has for many years past engaged the public attention; and ultimately the State made a decision which, added to private donations, was deemed to be sufficient to found such an institution. The Legislature created a corporation for the purpose; sufficient funds have been collected and secured; time enough has elapsed for the erection of the buildings. But before explaining the cause of this neglect we will offer a few remarks in favor of such an institution for this State.

It has been estimated that there are over three hundred insane persons in New Hampshire, many of whom poor and forsaken, wild and frantic, are confined in prisons, penitentiaries, cages, out houses and even cellars, and some chained to the walls of comfortable garrets! This is done in civilized, christianized New Hampshire, sometimes under the excuse of stern necessity! We need not say that it is a sacred duty to ameliorate their wretched condition. Cheerfully to extend the hand of charity to comfort and aid the friendless and the poor, the needy and the afflicted, is one of the noblest attributes of our nature.

A mode of treatment, with the aid of medical skill, has been discovered, to which a very large proportion of these unfortunate beings may be restored to the reason and understanding given them by the God of nature. How ought we to rejoice at the discovery?—For no one can say, however bright may be the intellect, that he is not liable to insanity. Medical science has also discovered that insanity is a physical disease, and like other diseases it is curable. The fact seems to be established; by divers official reports, that if timely aid be afforded, about nine out of ten of this unfortunate class may be restored to reason. The report of the London Prison Discipline Society, published in 1825, discloses the astonishing fact that in the Brixton of York, of forty patients admitted within three months after the first attack, the whole number were restored to their friends, recovered. But where the disease has continued several years, not one half the number were cured.

The report of the State Lunatic Asylum at Worcester, Mass., states 'that the number of the insane discharged in 1839 was 168, of whom 80 were recovered, 21 improved, 7 not improved, 30 harmless, and 22 died; — that it is nearly 7 years since the Hospital was opened, and in that time 1034 patients have been received, of whom 424 recovered, 72 died, and 537 have been discharged not recovered, some as harmless and incurable, some for want of room, and some by order of Courts, or at the request of their friends.'

But if only fifty, instead of thirty per cent., or even one out of twenty, can be cured by a timely application of remedies, where is the man of heart so hard, and so devoid of all feeling and sensibility as to withhold his efforts for their relief? Who would not use some efforts to establish an institution for so benevolent a purpose?

Such institutions are now established in various parts of Europe, and some upon a very costly and extensive plan. To the honor of our country be it said, they are now established in a majority of our sister States. Maine has expended over \$80,000, in addition to individual donations, for the purchase of a site and the erection of buildings on the banks of the Kennebec River. In Massachusetts there are Asylums at Charlestown, Boston and Worcester, besides several private Hospitals. In Connecticut there has been one for many years at Hartford—one in Vermont—New York and Pennsylvania have a number, to some of which donations exceeding a hundred thousand dollars have been given—New Jersey has one under way; and the States of Ohio, Kentucky, S. Carolina and Tennessee have each Asylums for the Insane. And it is to the credit of our State, that measures, deemed adequate to the object, have been adopted.

The aggregate fund now ready to be supplied amounts to about sixty thousand dollars. But the local or sectional views of two or three of the Trustees have arrested all the proceedings in respect to erecting the buildings, and even the abrogation of the Corporation is publicly threatened. We rely upon the high character and humanity of our enlightened citizens and legislators to defeat this plot or conspiracy. An attempt has been made and is still making to tangle party questions with this most benevolent object. We trust, however, that if anything on earth can escape party-feelings, it will be the Asylum for the suffering Insane.

The history of the proceedings to establish the Asylum is so generally understood, that a brief statement will answer our present purpose. In 1828 the Legislature passed an act creating the corporation by the name of "N. H. Asylum for the Insane;" and part of the Trustees was appointed by the Corporation and the other by the state authority. A serious question arose, whether the Corporation or the Trustees had the right to locate the Asylum. On the 7th June 1829, the Corporation and the Board of Trustees, each acting separately, each passed votes appointing a committee, consisting of Messrs. Woodward, Bell and Rockwell, to locate the Asylum, and also that their decision should be "*final and conclusive*."

This committee, all living out of the State, was very harmoniously agreed upon, on account of their impartiality, integrity, and science upon the subject, all being superintendents of Lunatic Hospitals, and thus the question in respect to the right of location was amply put to rest by all parties interested.

The town of Portsmouth on the 10th of June 1827, made a donation of Twenty-three thousand dollars, on the condition that the Asylum should be located within the town, and at the same time voted to apply to the Legislature for legal authority to transfer their portion of the surplus fund to the institution, being said \$23,000. On the 10th of July 1829, the Legislature granted the desired authority, "on all of the benevolent objects of the institution," for the benefit of Portsmouth as well as other towns, "on condition that said institution be located in such town." And as the vote of Portsmouth had been previously adopted, the act of the Legislature was made so to ratify that vote. On the 11th Sept. 1829 the said committee of location made report to the Trustees "that they had examined the various places pointed out to them by the committee of the Trustees, and after mature deliberation, are of opinion that said Asylum be located at Portsmouth, on the conditions offered by said town."

On the 18th Jan., 1830 the Corporation, by a vote (passed unanimously, with the exception of two votes from Council) accepted the Portsmouth donation, and directed the Trustees to "use officially their best endeavors to cause the Asylum for the relief of the insane to be there [at Portsmouth] erected and fitted for use." Having several months since

presented to the public a more extended argument proving conclusively that these doings and proceedings of said Corporation, Trustees, and town of Portsmouth, in pursuance of the laws of the State, constitute a contract, which is obligatory upon the parties thereto, which neither party can in good faith or in law rescind, except with the concurrence of all the parties; we would now merely remark, that this position is too evident to be doubted by any learned Jurist, or any person of sound common sense.

The *N. H. Patriot*, attempting to speak as the official organ of the state government, but perhaps more properly as the organ, in this respect, of the Trustees residing in Concord, declares that "one of the first acts of the Legislature will be to repeal the charter" of said Corporation! It may be (we have not examined the fact) that the charter contains the usual clause, authorizing such repeal. But if it does, such repeal could not divest the rights, which the Corporation had previously acquired to the funds of \$60,000 to endow the Institution, nor could the State thereby recall its donation of \$15,000; because the constitution of the United States expressly declares that "no State shall pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts?" And our State legislators make solemn oath that they will support the constitution of the U. States. We cannot believe that the Legislature would attempt to repeal the charter, even could the State thereby regain its donation. And we have too good an opinion of our legislators to believe, for a moment, that they could decide to destroy a corporation designed only to promote the cause of benevolence and humanity; or that they could be so regardless of the high character of the State or their own reputations as to attempt to act in bad faith—to violate a fair and legal contract, entered into by all parties with the purest motives!—that they could be guilty of an act, the effect of which would be to hold, for a long period, several hundred bereaved widows, in our midst, in their dreary and comfortless cages and prison houses! Could such an honorable legislator be found, this should of the tender and sacred feelings of humanity, we would say—"tell it not in Gath!"

But we freely admit, that proof of fraud and corruption would avoid the contract. This is a sound principle of law. And if the locating committee, and citizens of Portsmouth,

have been guilty of the corruption publicly charged upon them, the contract ought to be avoided and voidable. Of course, one party is not guilty without the other, and the character of both is, therefore, deeply implicated. If citizens of Portsmouth are guilty, the high commendation the Commission bestowed upon them for "their distinguished liberality" would be converted into their deep reproach and disgrace. And the generous act of the Commission in travelling through our State to select the best location, would lay upon them a lasting stigma. We have assurance that one of the Trustees have made the charge, and it has been repeated in the *N. H. Patriot*.

Fellow-citizens, we appeal to you, whether, in the absence of all proof, the character of so many shall ever be sullied by such suspicion and baseless charges? And whether this charge shall be sufficient to overthrow this benevolent institution?

The contract must stand inevitable, unless the charge of corruption shall be sustained; or unless, indeed, the honor of the State shall be sullied by unjustifiable legislation. We need not inquire unworthily whether the authors of this slander, we submit that matter to the candid public. We may not distinctly trace the slander to its true source, but have some suspicion that the Concord regency (did not the highly respectable citizens of Concord) were its authors, with a view to defeat the location at Portsmouth, and secure it at Concord. And this suspicion seems to be corroborated by divers circumstances. Among which was the wicked plot to excite party prejudices among the citizens of Portsmouth, through the agency of tainted sales of that treasury, in order to induce them to reject the vote bestowing their portion of the surplus fund, and thereby rendering the latter obnoxious to the course of acting in bad faith towards the Commission and the State. But no sooner was the plot disclosed, than the citizens of Portsmouth, with perfect unanimity, decided to acquiesce, in good faith, their part of the contract.

We believe that the candid and enlightened public have already attended to the claims of Portsmouth high commendation and honor, for their noble munificence, in cheerfully bestowing to the whole amount about thirty thousand dollars to aid all the institutions, being equal to the whole amount granted to the State, and subscribed by individuals in the

rich parts of the State. That their "distinguished liberality" ought to have some influence in the question of location, will, probably, be generally admitted. And if the charge of bribery be founded on their "liberality," then the term loses, at least, a portion of its odium, and conveys a meaning not calculated to degrade the reputation of the town. And if this be bribery, then the town of Concord may share a portion of the honor, for they offered, upon the same terms, a sum nearly equal to half the Portsmouth donation. And these offers were made in pursuance of an act of the Legislature.

As if the question of location were now opened for decision, the Concord regency contend that the Asylum ought to be located in a central part of the State, and because Portsmouth is not the territorial centre, that the location is unsuitable. But the superior wisdom of the committee led them to take various other matters into consideration. They deemed an eligible location to be of more importance than a mere central situation; and they knew that the latter consideration had been disregarded in other States of the Union, and that it could be of no importance, unless it should save travelling expenses. Had it been expedient to fix the location in the territorial centre, Sanbornton would probably have been the place. Yet we hear no complaints from the centre of the State. The objections come from Concord, as if the State had not already done enough for that town. Concord affords no site which would bear a comparison with the first selected site in Portsmouth. In our somewhat extensive travels through the State, we have never seen a more eligible spot. Beautiful scenery is deemed to be almost a sine qua non to the success of such institutions. And the Committee's location at the Vill's or Freeman place is embowered truly delightful, having one of the most beautiful and picturesque landscapes that can be witnessed, perhaps, in any part of New England. Easterly we have a full view of the town, the Navy Yard, the public works and Forts Kittery and Newmarket, the bold waters of the Piscataqua, the light-houses, and the ocean. Turning in the other direction, the rural and mountain scenery, elegant mansions and verdant fields, the wandering course of the Piscataqua, and the distant view of the neat village of Eliot are scarcely less delightful to the eye. Should any consid-

or this as a light matter, they wisely differ from skillful physicians, who understand how to cure the disease of insanity.

On the Utah's lot there is already erected a large and splendid dwelling-house, the cost of which, it is said, exceeded twelve thousand dollars, which may be purchased, the lot included, for the low sum of four thousand dollars; with, perhaps, some alterations, it may be rendered commodious as a part of the establishment, and thereby be a saving of some five or six thousand dollars expense. In addition to an excellent well, there is within a few rods of it a never-failing spring of soft, excellent water. It is but a short distance from this to the Freeman lot, bounded in part by the Pecos river. The latter lot has also the benefit of a similar never-failing spring. Soft spring water may also be conveyed by pipes to either lot from the nearest point of the great aqueduct, which now supplies a large portion of the town, the furthest head being 30 feet above the level of the Pecos river. Were it necessary, water over 100 gallons a minute may be raised by simple machinery to the tops of high buildings. But we should not here allude to this matter, had not one of the Trustees raised a captious objection.

Corral and Portsmouth, in the usual course of travel, lie about equal distance from the Northern ports of the State. The people of Cheshire county seem to be content, and certainly act habitually and in good faith. We should expect compulsion from that quarter in respect to distance, rather than from Corral. But the people of Cheshire and Hillsborough counties, after sending their income to Nashua, can thence connect them, in a few hours, to Portsmouth by the railroad cars. At no distant day, there may be similar facilities for travel from other sections of the State, so that thereby the only objection would be obviated.

The substance of the objection is, that the location at Portsmouth would be attended with a public loss on account of the expense of travel. To this we have two answers. 1st The increased travel from the western parts of the State would be counterbalanced by a corresponding saving of travel in the eastern parts. And the population is more dense, and there is a greater number, in each portion, of the houses in the eastern section. While with

random we admit that the distance to travel is attended with some inconvenience, yet as but one town can have the benefit of the location, the other towns ought to be willing for the good of the whole, to submit to that inconvenience; and this is not very weighty—compared with the benefit of the best location to the State. 3d.—one other answer is, that the interest of the Portsmouth donation "about eighteen hundred dollars" would far exceed the whole travelling expenses to and from the Asylum. Instead, therefore, of sustaining any loss to the location, it will be perceived, that adding the interest to the principal, (\$800,000) the public would be great gainers by the location at Portsmouth.

It has been stated by one of the opposing trustees, that the expenses of the Institution at Portsmouth would be greater than in the interior. It is a naked assertion, unsupported by evidence. We know of no reason why it cannot be established and supported at Portsmouth upon as economical a plan as at Concord or Scarborough. The building materials can be obtained with greater facility, and some at a cheaper rate, and there is the advantage of first rate mechanics—and various kinds of provisions, such as corn, rice, flour, rice, potatoes, fish, molasses, sugar and foreign necessities or luxuries, and some other kinds of provisions, can be obtained at cheaper rates in Portsmouth, than in the interior. Living has ever been remarkably cheap at Portsmouth, and there is not a more healthy place in the Union. The Asylum would also have the benefit of numbers of skilful medical physicians, ever ready to apply science to practice to restore the weaker patients. It is also said that such an institution ought to be located in the vicinity of a populous village or city. Such is generally the case in Europe as well as in this country. Such interference is beneficial to the patients, and they often receive good gifts, and their minds are amused and comforted less gloomy.

But "fresh fish" and "poor society," say certain writers in the N. B. Patriot, are the great arguments used in favor of Portsmouth. True, it certainly is, that Portsmouth enjoys the great benefit of one of the best fish markets in the Union. The expression, "poor society of Portsmouth," borrows from the life of a distinguished gentleman in the interior, and it has been infinitely used, over and over again, by the editor of the N. B. Patriot, to excite a vulgar prejudice against

all the people of Portsmouth. For the candid editor's benefit, we would inform him that there is some society in town and very "genteel," and there is also some with whom he might not consider it as a reproach to associate; and, indeed, there are various grades, of all which names and things he may possibly have had some previous intelligence. We notice this "genteel" attack, merely to show the *powerful* string the editor pulls upon to secure the local interests of Concord, where, with pleasure, we admit, there is much good society, and a few more rather selfish.

In justification of the decision of the leasing committee, *divers other advantages* might be urged, all which were naturally assigned and considered by the committee previous to these decisions, a decision which public opinion seems already to have sanctioned. At all events, it cannot now be reversed or modified, without destroying the corporation, and deluging all the sacrifices, which very many liberal and benevolent citizens, in the course of years have most liberally for the benefit of hundreds of these fellow-creatures, growing out of a miserable existence, in despair, shut out from the light of the sun, as well as from the light of Heaven. After this labor of years, may God forbid, that any should succeed in overthrowing this benevolent institution!

It is an institution more especially designed for the benefit of the poor. The poor have not the requisite funds to support these income relatives in proper and comfortable accommodations. Hence they ought to rejoice that Lunatic Hospitals are established and being established in most of the States. These being such institutions in the injured States, the officers of the State can afford to send, and do send their income friends and relatives in some of them. But not so with the poor, who rather, in half-starved rags and rags, hunched, when they once lived, when friends, friends and families now dwell the world, and where the unfortunate victims must remain all the long hard of death-hall where him from his torment. And consider, that these victims of disease might have been reduced to the tender embrace of their families and friends, but for, in the early stage of the disease been liberated from their chains and thunders, and removed to Hospitals, there is never the kind medical treatment, which method whom has this current.

My extensive knowledge of the character of the virtuous and enlightened people of New Hampshire forbids even a momentary belief, that they are opposed to this holy cause of humanity. They highly appreciate the object in view, and their kind and humane feelings revolt from the cruel, barbarous project of defesting the institution. Having put their hands to the plough, they will not consent to look back, or recall their donation.

If there be any of commanding influence in our community, who would forever endure the stings of a guilty conscience rather than surrender their selfish views and pride of opinion; let them reflect upon the deep responsibility they incur, not merely to their fellow mortals, but to their God. But the load of guilt upon the consciences of those who may desert the institution, would be no alleviation of the distress and sufferings of the bereaved mothers. And let them remember, that should they succeed in withering this liberal fund of sixty thousand dollars to the four winds, they would thereby eclipse the last ray of hope, which otherwise might fall not only upon the frightful ruins of hundreds now suffering, but of other hundreds not yet leaved of reason.

LANDOL.

Portsmouth Journal, Nov. 26, 1840.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE INSANE. — It is very evident from the tone of the Van Buren press in this State, that if the subject of the Hospital for the Insane shall be brought before the Legislature of this State next month, in any shape, its charter will be immediately repealed. Such will be the fate, ultimately, we doubt not, of a project that once enlisted the best feelings of a large number of the philanthropic citizens of this State. It will be a reproach to the State that local prejudices were stronger with us than sympathy for the suffering Insane. At all times it has been our opinion that Concord was the best place for its location on account of its central position; yet if it could not come here, we have been and are decidedly of the opinion that it should go to Portsmouth, as the advantages for such an institution in that town are neither few nor small. Besides the citizens of that place begin to see that their true interest lies in opening immediately communications, new and easy, with the interior of the State. In five years we hope

to see a Railroad from Portsmouth through Dover, Somersworth, Rochester, &c. to Alton Bay—thus opening the way for a heavy business between the busy towns bordering on and within 20 miles of the beautiful Winnepesaukee and the only seaport in New Hampshire, situated on the safest and best harbor on our whole Atlantic coast. Nor do we despair of seeing the commercial town and political Capital of the Granite State united by a Railroad. With such improvements from Portsmouth into the interior of the State, its local situation will not be bad for the Atlantic; and rather than have a blow-up of this benevolent enterprise we trust our business friends will set a disinterestedness honorable to themselves and beneficial to the cause of suffering humanity. It is worse than nothing to keep up an unending war about its location, but let the work go forward and leave it to a few years to almost annihilate space between even the "Upper Town" and the mouth of the "Great River."

*Friend Charles,
Portsmouth Journal, May 21st, 1849.*

N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The Legislature of this State, at its last session, has so changed the charter as to give all its control and management to the State, allowing the subscribers to withdraw their subscriptions. We are well satisfied with this. It has been found impracticable for the State and Corporation to act in unison; and if the difficult question of location had been settled, other points or differences would probably have shown themselves which would have injured the Institution and prevented its successful operation. We are desirous that the Corporation has been made, and will, therefore, be, those great question in the location of the Institution have prevented the Asylum from going into operation for more than a year, have its expense so far completed the work. Let them go on, we wish them success, and would regret to see them in the unsatisfactory position of having prevented others from relieving the Insane, while they accomplish nothing themselves.

But if they succeed, it will be little thanks from the

State. The Trustees of the State Institution cannot expect to retain any considerable part of the subscription money. The subscribers generally, never contemplated aiding an institution, entirely beyond their control, and the State of New Hampshire can hardly ask of a few, to use their money for the benefit of the whole. Therefore, if it is to be exclusively a State concern, under State management, the expenses of building and maintaining it should be from the State funds, or by an equal tax on all our citizens. This is but justice; for why should any one be asked for 25, or 200, or 500 dollars, to save his neighbor from a tax of 20 cents? The sum required, say \$10,000, will not be felt if assessed more than all. What, then, shall be done with the subscriptions? We hope those, who are not disposed to give their subscriptions to the State, will not withdraw their money, and thus destroy a fund which has been offered to this important charity. It should be deemed sacred for the relief of the insane. It may be that the State may give up the undertaking. It may serve the interests of the State by being used for a private asylum. The fund should be kept together, and afterwards used in that manner which will be most useful to those who may be afflicted with insanity.

A meeting of the Portsmouth subscribers has been held in this town. We copy their proceedings. It will be seen that they are willing unanimously that the fund be kept together, by being withdrawn from the old corporation and placed in the hands of Trustees to be chosen at a meeting of the subscribers, which will speedily be called for mutual consultation. The subscribers in this town, have expressed themselves in favor of a private institution, but they are ready to cooperate with their associates in other parts of the State. It may happen that they appear to promise the most speedy and efficient relief to the insane. The meeting was large, and unanimous in its resolutions, evincing a determination never to lose sight of the object.

Portsmouth Journal, June 21, 1840.

Reply to the Journal.—The State has passed a law making all the trustees appointed by the Governor and Council, instead of one-third, as heretofore, and allowing the private contributions to withdraw. The State donation amounting to about \$10,000 we believe, is to be kept at

increased until it amounts to \$40,000, which will probably be more in 20 years hence; and then the buildings are to be erected and the Institution go on as a State concern. We believe the law is generally regarded as a death blow to the Institution.

An attempt was made to amend the law, by compelling the State Treasurers to go on and erect the buildings, agreeably to the report of the Locating Committee, and their own pledged faith, but it was unsuccessful. The Eastern and Western sections of the State were for it, but the centre from north to south were in a phalanx against it.

It was then proposed that the Institution be made a State Institution and that the appropriation be increased \$20,000; that it be located by the Legislature and be commenced immediately. But this too failed.

Such anxious we have the Institution go on with a reasonable hope of relieving the poor insane of the present day, an amendment was proposed that the State withdraw its donation and allow the private contributors to go on with their own funds. This took well in the House and the bill was immediately passed by a majority of 40 and sent to the Senate. Here the Opposed influence which had been caught napping had time to recover and the leading men of that place crowded into the Senate Chamber, and exerted its utmost influence to defeat it. At first that body was equally divided on the question six and six, but finally some of the Senators gave way and also the amendment was lost. The original bill was then passed and the House concurred.

N. H. Gazette,

Portsmouth Herald, June 26, 1841.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

At a meeting of the Subscribers to the Asylum for the Insane, held at the Hall of the Atheneum Monday evening, June 21, 1840, the meeting was called to order by Mr. G. W. Harris, when Nathl. B. Marsh was chosen Chairman and Stephen H. Sears, Secretary.

The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to prepare resolutions for an adjourned meeting: Messrs. S. F. Coors, G. W. Harris, R. J. Sears, C. A. Chover.

The meeting then adjourned.

Meeting of the subscribers to the Asylum for the Insane, held by adjournment at the Court House Wednesday evening, June 23, 1840.

S. E. Cones, Esq., from the committee to draft resolutions, offered the following, which after addresses from Messrs. A. P. Peabody, G. W. Haven, J. W. Emery, C. A. Chayer and W. H. Y. Hackett were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, By a recent act of the Legislature of the State, the charter of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane has been so modified, as to place it entirely under the control of the State, allowing, at the same time, individual subscribers to withdraw their subscriptions:

1. *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this meeting, the subscriptions, which have been so generously made for the establishment of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, should be kept together, and held as a fund for the relief of the Insane, to be used in such a way, as may best conduce to the speedy accomplishment of that object.

2. *Resolved*, That a committee be raised, to procure the calling of a Town Meeting, to see if the Town will transfer and confirm to the present subscribers to the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, and to such others as may become their successors, for the establishment and support of an Asylum to be located in Portsmouth, the grant, recently made under certain conditions to the Corporation of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, of the Surplus Revenue of the United States deposited with the Town.

3. *Resolved*, That, while we pledge ourselves to continue our exertions for the establishment of an Asylum for the Insane, we dictate no plan of operation to the friends of the Insane in other parts of the State; but are ready to co-operate with them in any plan, which may upon consultation be found most expedient.

4. *Resolved*, That individual subscribers be requested, whenever suitable arrangements shall be made, to withdraw their subscriptions from the Treasurer of the late corporation of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane, and to transfer them to such Trustees, as may be appointed for that purpose.

5. *Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing votes be forwarded to Dr. Tuttle, President of the late Corpora-

tion and control of the funds to the Trustees, &c., and being inconsistent with the act creating the corporation, and doubts having arisen in respect to its constitutionality, the Corporation has not yet accepted this act.

The act of 1838 declares "that the Legislature, at any time, may alter, amend and repeal this act whenever the public good may require the same to be done." It is a fair construction of this clause, that if the public good should not require any alteration, amendment, or repeal of the act, the Legislature would have no authority to make the same by virtue of this clause. The judicial tribunals possess the power to settle the question.

The Legislature of 1849 refused to repeal the act, to gratify the Concord regency, but passed an additional act, amid the usual confusion near the close of the session, (we think without mature reflection) superseding or virtually removing from office the old board of Trustees, and appointing a new board of Trustees all under the State authority, and authorizing the corporators and contributors to withdraw their funds. This last act, being clearly unconstitutional, the corporation is not bound to accept it. It attempts, indirectly, not to amend and improve the act of 1838, but to destroy the corporation. The N. H. Asylum has legally acquired a vested right to its present funds, under a contract, the obligation of which the constitution of the U. States expressly forbids the Legislature to pass any laws to impair. The doctrine, that the Legislature may virtually remove officers, and authorize corporators to withdraw their capital paid in under a legal contract, if true, would give the Legislature the power to destroy all corporations. "The fund of about \$40,000 has been vested in the corporation, and cannot be divested by a legislative act. The location of the institution is legally fixed. It only remains for the Corporation to direct its board of Trustees, who, as we control, are not removed, to proceed in erecting the buildings. The donors cannot withdraw their funds, without a vote of the Corporation. The buildings, once erected, could not be dissolved by a legislative act.

Instead of wishing to defeat the benevolent object, the present or a future Legislature would either sanction the proceedings, repeal its unconstitutional act, or perhaps grant a new charter, should the case require it. Should the Leg.

future, upon reflection, insist upon establishing an Asylum at Concord, or elsewhere, the present corporation would doubtless agree to return the State's donation of \$15,000. The State could not reasonably request more.

We advise the Corporation to proceed under the act of 1838, because the Portsmouth surplus fund of \$25,000 and interest is now appropriated under a law of the State, and a different appropriation cannot be made, except by a new law. Besides, should the present funds be refused, it would be doubtful whether a sufficient sum could now be collected from private munificence. We merely state these points, believing that conclusive arguments may be adduced to support the same.

HOWARD.

Portsmouth Journal, July 25, 1846.

TOWN MEETING—INSANE HOSPITAL.

The following account of the proceedings of the town meeting last week, we copy from the *N. H. Gazette*. The unanimity of action on the subject, in a very full meeting, shows that our citizens are decided in carrying the benevolent enterprise into operation, so soon as sufficient funds can be raised.

On Friday evening last the citizens of this Town were convened in legal Town Meeting, for the purpose of acting upon a proposition for establishing a Hospital for the Insane. The articles in the Warrant which embraced the main subject were as follows:—

‘‘To see if the Town will appropriate that portion of the Surplus Revenue deposited with the Town of Portsmouth, towards the erection and establishment of an Asylum for the Insane, to be located in said Town of Portsmouth; the Town choosing or appointing a certain number of Trustees, in proportion to the whole amount subscribed for the establishment of said institution.

—Also to pass any other vote or votes which may be necessary in relation to the appropriation of said Surplus Revenue for the erection and establishment of said Asylum.’ The meeting having been organized by the election of JOHN

CHURCH, Esq., as Moderator, the meeting was briefly addressed upon the subject before them by SAMUEL E. COLE, Esq., and DR. CHARLES A. CRISWELL, when the following Resolutions, except in so far as they were subsequently amended, were offered by the former.

Resolved, By the Town of Portsmouth, in legal Town Meeting assembled for this purpose, that portion of the Surplus Revenue of the United States deposited with the Town of Portsmouth under the act of the State Legislature, approved January 12, 1857, be hereby appropriated towards the erection and establishment of an Asylum, within said town, for the Insane, and for the cure and better keeping of the Insane poor of the Town, under the following conditions, viz :

That the management and direction of said Asylum, shall be vested in Twelve Trustees, to be chosen and appointed in the following manner. The Selectmen for the time being shall appoint two-thirds of the Trustees; the remaining Trustees shall be chosen or appointed by the individual subscribers. That the Trustees, when appointed shall constitute a board for the location, building and management of said Asylum. That the board of Trustees shall make all necessary by laws for the government of the Asylum; shall appoint the physician, officers and attendants; shall decide upon the admission of patients, and shall exercise all authority necessary for the building, maintaining, and carrying on said Asylum for the purpose of the safe keeping and cure of the Insane; that they shall appoint a Treasurer, who shall give bonds for the faithful performance of his duty, which bond shall be approved of by the Selectmen and deposited with the Selectmen for safe keeping.

That out of the money appropriated by the Town, the Trustees shall set apart ten thousand dollars as a fund, the interest of which shall be applied to the support of the Insane poor of the Town of Portsmouth, or of the Insane of said town who though not paupers, may require aid towards their support in said Asylum, and that the interest be used for these purposes under the direction of the Selectmen, who shall designate the individuals who shall receive the benefit of this fund.

Resolved, That the said Asylum may be located on the Town Farm; and that the use, occupancy, and benefit of

thirty acres of said farm be given to said Asylum, provided, that the part of the Farm be so selected as will not, in the opinion of the Selectmen, injure the remaining part for the use to which it is now appropriated; and that the selected part shall not be sold or used for any other purpose whatever, and that it shall revert to the Town when no longer needed for the Asylum.

Resolved, That if any other town in its corporate capacity in the State, appropriate money towards this object, the town or towns thus appropriating money, shall have equal privileges with the town of Portsmouth.

Resolved, That eight Trustees be appointed by the present board of Selectmen of the Town of Portsmouth, to be joined with such others as may be chosen by the inhabitants, who, when so appointed, shall be a board of Trustees to carry into effect the proposed plan for the relief of the Insane, and to hold their offices until an act of incorporation be obtained and officers chosen under said act.

Resolved, That the Representatives of this town be instructed, and that the Senator of District No. 1 be requested to obtain from the Legislature such powers as may enable the town to appropriate their proportion of the Surplus Revenue towards the erection and sustaining an Asylum for the Insane in said town; and that they procure the necessary act of incorporation for the proposed Asylum.

Resolved, That when there shall be claimed from the Legislature the power thus to appropriate the Surplus Revenue, and when the first Board of Trustees under the charter shall be organized, that the Selectmen are directed to pay over to the Treasurer of the Asylum the Surplus Revenue deposited with said Treasurer; and that they proceed to set off to said Asylum such part of the Town Farm as in the opinion of the Trustees will be needed, not to exceed thirty acres, and under the conditions before specified.

The Resolutions were ultimately adopted by a very decided vote.

Portsmouth Journal, May - 29, 1840.

INSANE ASYLUM

Mr. Editor,— If it be possible to spare a *few line space* from politics, I wish you would drop a few words to the public respecting the INSANE ASYLUM; calling attention to the fact that the Trustees appointed by the Town have commenced their labors of collecting subscriptions, applying first, to those who subscribed to the State Institution, which has been abrogated. This Committee, all of them, are believe active friends of the enterprise, will doubtless strive to obtain *the transfer of the assets to the new institution which is to be located in this town*, as only a short time remains in which subscribers can recall their money from the State Asylum; five months from the passage of the act, being nearly expired.

It should be remembered also that upon the prompt and speedy completion of this design may depend the obtaining the legacy of \$20,000 which has been left to the *first established* Asylum; which consideration, as well as the sufferings of the unhappy inmates, calls for earnest action.

A. G.

Dorchester Journal, Oct. 17, 1840.

PISCATAQUA ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

Our citizens will learn with regret that all attempts to obtain a charter for this Institution at the late session, have failed. We do not know the precise grounds for the refusal, but have reason to believe, that it arises from the jealousy of the people in the interior who are interested in the State Institution to be located at Concord. The bill passed the House with unresistance making the private property of the stockholders liable for the debts of the corporation, and thus sent to the Senate; where it was referred to the appropriate committee and reported without amendment. The chairman of the committee was Dr. Peter Benson of Concord, who stated that it he laid on the table, which seems to have been its burial place.

It was first objected to, in understand, because it was feared that one institution might get the start of the State

concerns, and thus obtain the donation of \$10,000 from Miss Fisk, of Keene. But when this objection was obtained by one of the representatives offering to insert a clause stating that that donation, if still failed to find favor with friends of the other institution on the ground, it was suggested, that it might not stand to good a chance to get the nation as if there were but one. Thus the philanthropic individuals who have been laboring so sedulously to establish a retreat for the suffering insane, are again doomed to see their hopes blasted, and that, too, through unworthy motives.

Not satisfied with overturning the compact to locate our State institution in this place, our up country friends must needs contest our right to establish a private institution by ourselves, because it is not agreeable to them. Is this noble?—Is it generous?—Is it worthy those who profess to watch sympathetically for the suffering insane, thus to oppose the means for their relief?

Thus above we copy from the last *N. H. Gazette*. On this subject we propose a few questions.

Is it not well understood that the fair, legal location of the Asylum in this town, was defeated by the influence of James Hill, a Director?

Is it not equally well understood that his influence, and that of his associates have defeated the application for an act to incorporate an Asylum in this place?

Is it not likely that the same influence will continue to be exerted to retard our progress in every possible way?

Is it not within the power of the town of Portsmouth, as a Corporation already in existence, to devote its large portion of the surplus revenue to the object of building an Asylum both within, under its own direction?—And with our numerous mechanics and facilities for building—is it not entirely within our power, after all, to get the start of the State concern, and thus receive the \$10,000 donation provided for by Miss Fisk, of Keene?

Is it not as readily within the province of this town, (if its citizens please,) to build an Asylum for the Insane, as for the Poor?

These questions are thrown out for the benefit of whom they may concern. The subject is worthy of attention; and we hope it may be discussed and acted upon reasonably.

PORTSMOUTH.

Portsmouth Journal, Jan. 2, 1841.

THE ASYLUM, AND POLITICAL CAPITAL.

We very cheerfully comply with the request of the *Gazette*, to "aid the editors of that paper in rectifying their mistake," in relation to the Asylum for the Insane, as well as any other mistake they may hereafter discover, on that or any other subject.

We borrowed the article from the *Gazette*, and published it verbatim, but now we are informed by the same paper that they were in error when they stated that the bill was so amended as to make the property of individual stockholders liable for the debts of the corporation. They say now, that the bill was only postponed to the next session, but not so amended.

If our neighbors will look again at the remarks of "Pompanoth," they will see that he *carefully avoided every allusion to parties*. If this be making political capital, it is an article very easily manufactured.

It is, we suppose, entirely true that Isaac Hill defeated the enemies of the State Asylum here—and that he and "his associates" (whether black or white it matters little) defeated the incorporation of the Poughkeepsie Asylum at the last session.

It is also true, by the *Gazette's* own showing, that 7 pro-posed "Democrats" in the Senate, (being a majority of that body) voted to postpone it to the next session.

We expressed our opinion, editorially, that Mr. Hill was wholly unworthy of our confidence in this matter; we think him equally so as to politics, and an *want-for-bride* for honest but ignorant men anywhere.

His conduct in relation to the Asylum is a fair specimen of his doings generally, and we take this opportunity to warn our Democratic neighbors against being led by such men any longer—lest they lead *them* into worse mistakes than the one we are now *correcting*.

We are full in the belief that there are "a good many Democrats" in this State out of the Legislature as well as in it, who cannot and will not swallow the *two faces* or *de-structive* doctrines of a certain class of writers and papers. And we have very strong hopes that we may number our friend of the *Gazette*, among them, before next spring. They

are certainly the *friends* of two or three Corporations, and we have stockholders or subscribers to one or more.

It is high time for all men of good practical common sense and honesty in our State to unite, and put down violence and folly, so as to present an *undivided* front against demagogues of every name and of every form.

Pittsburgh Journal, Jan. 9, 1841.

PISCATAWA ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The rejection of the bill to incorporate the *Piscatawa Asylum for the Insane*, at Portsmouth, has given rise to much feeling among the citizens of that town; and well it may produce excitement there and elsewhere, for the feelings that dictated its rejection were unworthy to be indulged by any town of any party or place. We are glad to know that an *Whig* in either branch of the Legislature voted against the bill. The same spirit of reckless Law-Facism in the Senate rejected that bill, which, in the House of Representatives, fought against every measure calculated to benefit Concord. So long as Portsmouth sends such men as ———— and his associates to the Legislature, and the 11th Senatorial District elects such a man to ————, so long the legislation of the State will be anything but satisfactory to a thinking, considerate community, for where one crosses the other's path, low-bred revenge will seek malicious satisfaction, though it be at the expense of the best interests of the community. We trust the day when such men are to be our law-makers is fast coming to a close. The *New Hampshire Gazette* is very reasonable in its remarks upon this subject when it charges all our ———— with making a common cause in this warfare against Portsmouth. The true history of the whole case would confirm the opinion of the *Gazette* that his exceeding denunciation of our citizens, generally, in this matter, was not called for, and very unjust.

We condemn the rejection of the bill in question as pointedly as does the editor of the *Gazette*, and in so doing we best echo the opinion of four-fifths of the Whigs of this town, and some of the best men of the other

party. It was a mean act of little minds that has no apology for its performance. We are sorry to see bad local feelings cherished between the citizens of the capital of the State and those of its only seaport—a seaport of which every citizen should be proud. The *Gazette* knows well enough where the trouble is, but party feelings will not allow them to speak out all they feel; perhaps, by and by, they will feel free to do it.”

Portsmouth Journal, Jan. 16, 1841.

INSANE ASYLUM.

Mr. Brewster :—The editors of the *Gazette* say they have no direct interest either in the Railroad or the Asylum. They certainly did have in the former, and we thought they did in the latter. Why they should have lost their interest in the Asylum for the Insane we cannot imagine. That there have been some great disappointments about it we admit, and we believe these occurred wholly in consequence of the power placed in the hands of Hon. Isaac Hill, one of the Directors. But when we undertake any benevolent enterprise, we ought never to abandon it till all hope of present success is taken away. We may suspend operations when things look unfavorable, but should not lose sight of the object. It is known that some men opposed to Mr. Hill in politics joined with him, as stated in the *Gazette*, but he was the prime mover of the difficulties and ought to bear the blame of it. The object of introducing him in a former communication was to show that his influence would continue to be exerted against our Asylum, and aided by his associates of whatever party I feared he might still prevent our getting a charter. But I hoped, and I still hope, that the Town of Portsmouth may take hold of it, as a Corporation already in existence, and not liable to be dissolved. They have the power, and they have the means, to build it, and enroll it for their own insane poor, taking in those who are able to pay at a reasonable charge. Why may it not be done?

PORTSMOUTH.

Portsmouth Journal, Jan. 16, 1841.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

Mr. Editor — I see in the Concord newspapers the advertisement of the State's Committee for procuring the materials for building the Insane Asylum in Concord, and this brings to mind the barefaced juggling of the present dominant party in this State, in relation to the location of that institution. It seems to me, Mr. Editor, that you would gratify the inhabitants of Portsmouth very much if you would publish a concise history of the legislation upon this subject, and of the proceedings of the several individuals who have acted a prominent part in the "Comedy of Errors," which has been played before the people of New Hampshire in relation thereto. I should like to have the votes of the Portsmouth Delegation in the General Court spread before the People, so that you may be able to judge whether they have in all cases acted in honesty and good faith; or whether they were only duped by the leaders of their own party in relation to this matter.

AN INQUIRER.

Portsmouth Journal, Feb. 29, 1841.

NEW HAMPSHIRE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

We gave last week some outlines of the Hospital. As we had no other mode of measuring than by the eye, we made some errors in our estimate, as we since learn by comparing our account with a report made in Hill's *N. H. Patriot* of the present week. We make the following extract, which gives the accurate dimensions of the Hospital.

The Hospital consists of a central and two wings. The central building is 48 feet long, 14 feet wide, and runs parallel above the basement. The wings are each 30 feet long, 18 feet wide, and three stories in height above the basement.

The basement of the whole superstructure rises 100 feet above ground and is constructed of the best split granite; but rough except the coping and window caps and sills, door stones and sills, which are well hewed.

The wings are divided with brick walls into twenty-one

rooms in each story, consisting of a hall or corridor running twelve feet wide through the centre with ten small rooms on each side, eight by ten feet, making 118 rooms in this part of the building.

The centre building, when finished, will consist of 21 rooms besides the halls or sides which pass through the centre, with one or more closets or clothes presses to each room.

The expense of this building was estimated inclusive of fixtures, at a little rising \$25,000, and the Chairman of the Building Committee informs us that this estimate will not be exceeded so far as that estimate went. There are, however, other items which have been or are to be added—such as slating the roof (a most important amendment) digging and stoning wells, excavating gravel, filling and grading the ground about the building, the purchase of copper gutters, expense of superintendence, and numerous other contingencies; all of which will go to swell the expense to about \$26,000.

Portsmouth Journal, Nov. 6, 1841.

The July term of the Superior Court commenced at Exeter on Tuesday. There were few new cases before the court for this county; and consequently few arguments of importance were made to the court by the bar of this county.

The case of *George W. Haven vs. N. H. Asylum for the Insane*. Mr. Haven was employed by the vote of the Trustees of the Asylum in 1838 to lecture in various parts of the State in behalf of the Institution. He brought this action to recover the promised pay for his services and expenses. The question for the court was whether the evidence made out the claim. Mr. S. E. Coates testified that by vote of the trustees he employed Mr. Haven and that the services were rendered. He had understood that there was no record of that vote.

The book of records was not produced. The court held the evidence insufficient, inasmuch as it was not shown that there was any such corporation as the N. H. Asylum, nor what were its by-laws, or the powers of the trustees, nor whether there were any trustees, nor who they were, if there were any. They said that a corporation cannot avoid its obligations by neglecting to record its votes, but that

they should have been notified to produce the record that the note if recorded might appear. Judgment for defendants, *Hockett* for Plaintiff; *St. Clair and Hale* for defendants.
Portsmouth Gazette, July 25, 1843.

EXTRACTS FROM THE EXETER NEWS LETTER.

INSANE HOSPITAL.

Our readers will recollect that at the meeting of the Legislature in June last, Governor Dinsmore, with a feeling which does honor to his head and to his heart, recommended in his message the adoption of some measures for the amelioration of the condition of the insane; and suggested the propriety of having erected at the expense of the State, a Hospital for the reception of these unfortunate beings. This important portion of the Governor's Message has been received with an assent for which it is difficult to account. It will probably be taken into consideration by the Legislature at the adjourned session in December next—and in the meantime the subject should be properly examined and canvassed, that interesting facts may be furnished, and public opinion fairly elicited.

Entertaining these sentiments, it is with pleasure we publish the following communication, handed us by a gentleman whose opinion on this subject is highly valuable. It will be read with interest by all; for there is no subject of more general importance to a community than this. In the words

of our correspondent, "no one has warrant that he shall be exempted from this work of reason, which is inherent like to all, and which often arises from simply an excess of indulgence of those very feelings, which most strikingly signify the human character."

We hope that our correspondent will not stop here, but will devise or suggest some plan, by which the philanthropic measures recommended by the Governor, may be carried into execution, with the least possible expense to the State.

CONTINUATION FOR THE NEWS LETTER.

MR. SLEEPER.—If you are in favor of a State Insane Hospital, and think the following crude remarks will have any effect in calling the attention of the public to its importance, you are respectfully requested to give them a place in your useful paper.

No apology will be made for offering a few remarks on the subject of a State Insane Hospital, since the Governor in his late message to the Legislature, has called the attention of this body to its consideration, and has so justly and feelingly represented its importance. It is indeed somewhat singular that this subject should not, at an earlier period than this, have been brought before the public under some form or other. It would, however, have been from a want of sympathy for that class of the community, which deserve, by suspending the proper use of one or more of the faculties of the mind, the greatest incapacity of profiting for themselves; but must have arisen from misapprehending the nature of insanity, or from attributing that prevalent error, the incurability of mental disease. Indeed the belief in the incurability of insanity and medicine in restoring mental derangement, has been so prevalent that a great number of the cases, after very slight and inadequate attempts for restoration, have been given up as incurable, and the unfortunate subjects, as if they had lost their reason on the feelings of humanity in correspondence of a signal dispensation in Providence, are consigned over to imprisonment and chains, there to undergo the death, like a kind angel, comes to their relief. If a loss of all the faculties of the mind were essential to constitute a lunatic, then this mode of treatment would have a much sadder aspect. But we find respecting the insane is better established than that

cases of total alienation are of very rare occurrence. It is not too much to say that three-fourths of the insane are not unconscious of what takes place around them, and of the restraints to which they are subjected. The treatment then which many of the insane receive is not less inconsistent or injudicious, than would be that which would prevent an individual from using his feet because he had lost a hand, or forbid him the privilege of viewing a landscape because he had been so unfortunate as to be deprived of the power of enjoying the sounds of the organ.

Every person in the State is interested in this subject. No one has a warrant that he shall be exempted from the work of reason, which is incident alike to all, and which often rises from simply an excess in the indulgence of those very feelings which most strikingly dignify the human character.

The success which has attended the efforts made in other States and in other countries for the relief of the insane, is abundantly sufficient to encourage every individual to urge forward an enterprise so beneficial both to the friends and to these unfortunate subjects.

The number of those afflicted with insanity is probably greater than is usually supposed. I have no particular knowledge of the different sections of the State, or of any reason why this disease should be more prevalent in one part than in another; but from my own knowledge in this vicinity, I think that one for every thousand of inhabitants is within the true ratio. Say then there are two hundred and fifty in the State. One-third of this number, at least, may be fairly supposed to be *insensé*; another third in some kind of imprisonment, while the remainder, from having retained some harmless hallucination, are suffered to have their liberty. It is no doubt generally believed, and it ought so to be, that in the regular education of a physician, that knowledge of the philosophy of mind is included, which is necessary to the right treatment of its diseases. But this is a sad mistake. Mental philosophy has hardly a name among the requisitions for those who are pursuing the study of medicine, or offer themselves for graduation. They may therefore be fairly considered as little qualified to meet the multiplied forms of alienation as the generality of people are the diseases of the body.

Note it is, as has been stated by the Governor, among the recent cases of lunacy that we are to look chiefly for success, but not even here without those conveniences and facilities for that kind of treatment which is required by the nature of the disease. So far as the treatment is physical, location is comparatively of little consequence; but it is the moral treatment on which the great dependence is placed. In this respect hardly two cases can be managed alike, for no two lunatics in any establishment have ever been found to resemble each other in having inhibited the same hallucination.

We must then as a people suppress all rising feelings of an enlightened philanthropy and see individuals of our own families or friends, arrested by disease in their course through life, and consigned over to a living tomb, conscious of the injustice done them; and at the same time unable to obtain either relief or any expressions of sympathy — as we must put forth our energies and engage in a work which would be alike worthy of ourselves, and of the day in which we live. We must continue essentially as we are, with the knowledge of the existence of the evils which have been alluded to, or we must have an establishment where the wants of every grade can at once be received, and have all the advantages which science and skill can afford, together with ample provision for the security of the patients and proper considerations for the faithful execution of every plan judged requisite for their restoration.

I am aware that in the minds of many there is a prejudice against Public Hospitals, from an idea that the patients do not receive that kindness and attention to which they are entitled. This may have been true in some institutions; but has been more frequently so at private establishments, where love of gain suppresses every humane feeling and finds an excuse for the exercise of the most cruel disposition. Indeed a tale might be told on this subject, which would hardly fail to excite indignation and horror equal to that which is produced by listening to the history of savage barbarity. It is to my judgment a very important consideration that every pecuniary temptation should be removed, and also that every precaution should be taken to prevent all kinds of tyrannical treatment on the part of those who have the charge of the house.

For reasons like these I would always have institutions for the insane, public, with overseers whose business it should be to examine into the circumstances of every case, and see that every intention was afforded; and thus to give to the friends and to the public a guarantee of the faithful and honest execution of the designs of the establishment.

A further reason for such an establishment is the expense which now attends necessarily every efficient effort to restore the insane. If they are removed to some establishment in a neighboring State, such trouble is often met with in getting them admitted; and also in obtaining suitable boards, besides a weekly charge which a great proportion of sailors are not able to meet, for a length of time sufficient for a fair experiment. And if they are treated at home, it is done at the expense of much time in attendance on them. And here it may be proper to observe, that all who have been conversant with the subject, unite in the opinion that mental derangement is much less likely to be removed while the patient is with his friends and among objects familiar to him, than when he is placed in a new situation with strangers.

I cannot conclude these remarks without expressing my regret, that the subject has been so favorably presented to the public by the Government; and at the same time intimating my hope that he will continue to exert both his personal and official influence to carry into execution an institution which has no true ally in the principles of extended philanthropy and sound philosophy.

Review News Letter, July 31, 1832.

THE INSANE HOSPITAL.

It will be seen by any summary of the legislative proceedings that the Bill providing for the erection of an Insane Hospital in a central part of the State, after a warm discussion in the House has been *unanimously postponed*. Having always advocated the expediency of the measure, and having paid public opinion, as far as it has been sought, to be in favor of it, we must confess that we feel surprised and somewhat disappointed at the result.

The great obstacle to the passage of the bill at the pre-

ent time, seems to have been, a want of time to acquire a proper knowledge of the subject, and to form a correct opinion as to its expediency. An objection which we should hardly think would have been urged by any one of our Legislators.

The Governor in his Message at the opening of the Session in June last, strongly recommended the subject to the consideration of the Legislature: this portion of the Message was referred to a committee, but was not acted on during the last session, it being distinctly understood that it would be brought forward in December, and in the interim correct information could be obtained, which would enable our Legislators to decide as to the propriety of legislating on the subject. Since then the Governor by addressing circulars to the Selectmen in every town in the State, has collected a mass of important information relative to the condition of the Insane, which he has communicated in his Message to the Legislature at the commencement of the present Session, and again upon them the importance of following the example of our sister States and acting on this subject without delay.

The subject to which that portion of the Governor's Message, which relates to the Insane, was referred to a committee, consisting of men intelligent men, one of them an eminent physician, have carefully investigated the subject, and in a report, replete with argument, and philanthropic sentiments, have unanimously recommended the passage of a resolution that "it is expedient that an asylum for the Insane be established."

One would suppose that such a Report upon a subject which had been deemed sufficiently important by the Executive to require special notice, would have passed the House by a large majority. We hope, however, that the friends of humanity will not be discouraged; that this subject so deeply interesting to every class of mankind, will be again discussed in the Legislature in June next, and that in the meantime the friends of an Insane Hospital, having for its object the alleviation of the distress of "which flesh is heir to," will through the medium of the press, make public any facts or circumstances which may have a bearing on this interesting theme, and tend to enlighten the public.

Register News Letter, Jan. 5, 1836.

INSANE HOSPITAL.

MR. EDITOR:—A trial placed in my hands sometime since "the annual Report of the Trustees, of the State Lunatic Hospital, at Worcester" for three years, and Dr. Bell's "Report on the Insane" to our present Legislature. I have examined, compared and reflected on the various facts and statements, presented in these documents, and have arrived at the conclusion that it is my duty, to give an affirmative vote on the question to be presented at our November meetings, *whether it is expedient for the State to build an Insane Hospital?* I am disposed with your permission, to give an abstract of the reasons which have produced this conviction in me, for the benefit of those who have not the materials or the leisure for a candid judgment on this subject.

1. It appears that the cure and relief of insane persons without an institution especially designed for the purpose, is entirely impracticable, and hopeless.

2. That in a well conducted asylum, like that at Worcester, almost all recently seized lunatics are entirely cured, that is, more than 90 in 100, and nearly a third of all the old cases, however long or severely they may have been afflicted. So that more than a half of the entire inmates at any time, will be returned to society, to support themselves and those dependant on them, and relieve the anxiety and apprehensions of friends.

3. That there are in about three-quarters of the population of this State, over three hundred insane persons, as returned to the legislature, equal to more than 1% in the whole State, and over 100 must be actually confined in cages, chains, cells, garrets, cellars, sheds, prisons, small strong holds made on purpose, &c., &c.

4. That the sufferings of these, especially of the poor, amounting to about one half the number, by freezing, and hunger, and damp and nakedness and stripes, would be incredible if related of foreign barbarous nations, and in a christian and polished community are disgraceful and abominable.

5. That apart from the cures resulting from a Hospital, a great portion of all the tortures and anguish now endured

would be saved, to some humane institution or society but are reduced to pain, misery and generally to a increase of contagious and suppurative disease through the influence of ignorance and skill, prohibition of food except not being known to such institutions, and even confinement not being necessary in more than five cases in a hundred.

6. That in the Worcester and other hospitals a large amount of valuable and productive labour is lost by the inmates, diminishing their cost, and adding to their ease and contentment; and all authorities coincide in the belief that required in quarantine, they could numerically, if not entirely, discharge the cost of such an action to the public.

7. That the present cost of the inmate in this State, as reported, is, with all its objectionable and needless features, which it costs a week for each; so much as is expended for the inmates of the Worcester Asylum, and actually as much as it would cost to a hospital in N. H. were it really being well suited to the facts, which should be concerned with every such institution.

8. That the Worcester Hospital for 120 or 30 patients with all its embellishments, did not cost over \$30,000; that precisely such an edifice could be made in this State or some be a third less; and with the whole furnished and put into operation the cost would not be more than 2000 and 300,000, by each case; or less than nine pence for each in England.

9. That the State of New Hampshire in no way would pay any more than the South, if the tried system of Worcester was adopted, in which whatever surplus is needed to meet the current expenses is paid to the friends, societies or boards legally responsible. If being without authority or official with them, to support such income charges them as churches.

10. That no humane sum of money is wanted into the State or necessary and so little needed that no plan has yet been devised for its use; that restriction of this institution and so all that is asked for, is the public good. If this small portion is refused for such a purpose, will the Treasurer of Haverhill be expected to be spending money?

A. WOOD

Worcester News Letter, May 18, 1836.

MR. SULLIVAN'S SPEECH.

ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE THE RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

MR. SPEAKER :

As a member of the Committee that reported the resolution under consideration to the House, I am opposed to the postponement of the subject. The immediate establishment of an insane hospital, was regarded by the committee, as important to the interests of a large number of our suffering fellow citizens, as well as to the interests of the State. The prominent question arising from the resolution before the House is, whether it is expedient that a hospital shall be established for the benefit of the insane. However stretched the deranged may be, the question should be decided, not by the dictates of unfeeling pity, but by the unswerving rules of reason and justice.

If it can be shown to be a requirement of justice that the insane poor should be confined and comfortably provided for, at the public expense — that they are not now so provided for, and that they can be more advantageously supported in a domestic asylum than in any other place, then it will not be denied that the resolution ought to pass. But if, on the other hand, we fail to establish these points, then the resolution should not pass.

Before we consider the several points which I have mentioned, let us reflect for a moment upon the situation of the insane poor. No class of the community can be more unfortunate or forlorn. They are deprived by Providence of reason, their only correct guide in life, and are under the domination of disordered passion. They often become wanderers, and although hungry and cold, are avoided by men and regarded with apprehension and alarm. If there be any situation in which man can be placed where he is entitled to consideration, it is when he is deprived by God of the faculties which raise him above the brute creation, and when every door is barred, through fear, against him. Such is the condition of numbers of our fellow citizens, in whose behalf the friends of this measure claim the guardian care of the legislature.

To show the propriety of establishing an insane hospital, I maintain in the first place, it is a requirement of justice that the deranged should be confined and suitably provided for at the expense of the public. The safety of the insane, as well as the security of citizens in general, which should be the first object of legislation, renders it incumbent on the public to confine them. To prove that madmen who are poor should be fed and clothed, and when sick should receive medical aid at the expense of the public, would be unnecessary in a community so enlightened and benevolent as our own. The voice of humanity requires it, and repeated acts of the legislature, however ineffective, admit the fact. Yet, the provisions of our statute have hitherto been so ineffectual, that madmen are often victims of the barbarity of individuals.

Public acts should be of such a character as to secure to the insane humane and benevolent treatment. The deranged are our brethren—members of the same common family, and sustained by the same common parent. Like ourselves, they are members of an extended community, which is kept in existence, by common interests and exertions. Some, who were formerly in the full exercise of reason, and vigorous supporters of the institutions of society, are, in a moment, stricken. And now that reason is extinguished, and they are no longer able to support themselves, it is the duty of society to maintain and defend them. Perhaps one of the strongest obligations, imposed upon society, is that of supporting its deranged and helpless members. If individuals are bound to contribute toward the maintenance of society in times of health and reason, none is equally bound to provide for them when in consequence of *infirmitas*, they are unable to maintain themselves. Honor and valor would be the commendation and applause of that community, which exerts of its members their best efforts for the support, in times of health and reason, and that fails to relieve them in the hour of their distress.

From considering the respective statutes of our State, we shall be satisfied that they are far from making the most salutary provisions for the insane, which the nature of their case admits. In support of this opinion, I refer, in the first place, to the Act of the 21 of July, 1829, which provides that "whenever any person who shall have been as-

rested and in custody or in prison to answer for any crime before the Superior Court of Judicature, shall be acquitted thereof by the petit jury, or shall not be indicted by a Grand Jury, by the reason of the insanity or mental derangement of such person, and the discharge or going at large of such person shall be deemed by the same court to be dangerous to the safety of the citizens, or the peace of State; the said court is authorized and empowered to commit such person to prison, there to be detained till he or she shall be restored to his or her right mind, or otherwise delivered by due course of law."

This act was intended to protect society from being disturbed by lunatics. Without an asylum expressly provided for their reception, it is, probably, as safe a provision as can be made for the insane. But what is the nature and necessary consequence of this act? While it provides for the confinement of the deranged, it overlooks their health and recovery. Although a distinction is made, by the language of the act, between misfortune and guilt, still, the person who has been acquitted of a crime alleged against him, by the verdict of a jury, by reason of insanity is consigned to a prison. Whatever verbal distinction the statute may make between crime and derangement, we cannot think it right that insane persons, no matter of what age or sex, or in what behalf of reformation they may have been educated, if acquitted of crimes alleged against them, by reason of insanity should be consigned to a goal, the common receptacle of criminals. If such is the best provision which the statute can, at present, make for the deranged, it speaks in forcible accents, in favor of the establishment of an insane hospital.

Other provisions of the statute appear to be well adapted to the necessities of the deranged. The Act of December 14th, 1828 provides for insane persons who are not charged with the commission of offences. The first and second sections provide that towns and counties may respectively "purchase, erect and hold any houses or other buildings which may be necessary for the accommodation, support and employment of their poor and for a house of correction." The 3d Section enumerates offenders who may be sentenced to poor-houses and houses of correction. A part of whom are as follows:—"Beggars, vagabonds, lewd, idle

and dishonesty, pious, common pipers, bellows, rummages, common drunkards, pilferers, night walkers, and common railers or leechers." Such are the companions whom the state has selected for persons who have been deprived of reason. Is it not — is it humane, that he who has contributed to the support of civil institutions in time of reason, should be liable, when deranged, to become the companion, as well as the sport and ridicule of criminals? In the midst of such society recovery is hopeless. Such an exhibition of turbulent and malignant passions, is calculated to debase reason, rather than to restore it to its empire.

There is still another provision of the statute intended for the benefit of the insane. It is however but little better adapted to their necessities than the former act. The 21st Section of the Act of 1818 provides "that overseers of the poor in every town in this State be and heretofore are, empowered to find out to take every person residing in their town who is poor and unable to take of relief from such town." The insane poor are among the number who stand in need of relief from towns. The measure in which this act provides for their support is to bind them out to service. The usual mode of forming the contract is, to set insane persons up at auction, or to let them out to men, who will take them at the least expense to the town. It forms no part of the inquiry whether the contractor is cruel, or humane, whether he is kind or cruel, but, what is the lowest price at which he will support the pauper. — Is it just, is it equitable, to set up at auction, the unfortunate insane, who are now a disgrace, and one of the brightest ornaments of society? The very manner of forming the contract, conspires to the injury, the want of attention, and the consequent food and misery. The contractor takes the pauper exclusively from temporary aidings. He takes him, in support at the lowest possible price, and even then, he declines to profit to the bargain. Medical aid is seldom or never called for. The insane man, at auction, is treated as a barn; he is indifferently fed and clothed, in the most indignant manner of the year. The lash and the sticks of the master too often tell the tale. Such is the treatment of many our insane men, who have engaged in the same pursuit in which we engage, who have contributed to the maintenance of the civil institutions, which we adore.

and from which he seems to be excluded forever.

We have considered, at length, the provisions made by our statute for the insane. Let us advert to them again, for a moment. If the insane man has been accused of the commission of a crime, and acquitted by reason of insanity, he is committed to a goal, to endure, perhaps, the same imprisonment he would have endured, if he had been convicted. If not charged with the commission of a crime, and the lunatic is poor, and unable to maintain himself, he may be either sent to the house of correction, or bound out in service, to the lowest contractor. A mere recital of these acts is enough to show, how inefficient they are to provide for the necessities and the restoration of the insane.

The only remaining question is, can lunatics be more advantageously supported in an insane hospital, than in any other place? If they can, the restoration should pass. I will enumerate some particulars, in which insane hospitals have claims to superiority, above every other mode of providing for the deranged.

In the first place, they secure the health of patients. The gloomy, close and filthy apartments of a goal, form a striking contrast with the cleanly and well-lighted apartments of a hospital. The latter contributes to health, the former engenders disease. In hospitals, the insane are provided with comfortable beds and raiment, with cleanly food and regular meals. In prisons and poor-houses, they are indifferently clothed, their beds are of straw, their food is filthy, of the coarsest kind, and taken at irregular periods.

[In support of these assertions, extracts were read from a report of the American Prison Discipline Society.]

There are additional advantages in asylums, which no other place can afford. Amusements are here provided, which are adapted to the tastes of various classes of patients. Connected with asylums are generally from ten to twenty acres of ground. Patients here amuse themselves by walking, breathing, cultivating plants, and by various kinds of light labor. Contrast this condition with that of lingering out an existence of 15 or 20 years, within the walls of a prison. Consider must admit, that the difference is immense.

A further advantage is, that asylums are provided with

physicians and nurses, who are skilled in the management of insane patients. To become acquainted with the various *causes* of derangement, is the result of industry and long experience. This can be acquired only in hospitals. Physicians, in ordinary practice, cannot become familiar with the treatment of derangement. Their skill is employed to detect and to apply a remedy to (physical) diseases; but they have no sympathy or skill where moral treatment alone is required. The humanity under which the insane *suffer*, is moral, and not physical. The remedy must also be moral. An acquaintance with a judicious moral treatment, enables the superintendent to keep out of view the false notions which occupy the mind of the patient; to remove from his sight all objects which are calculated to excite delusive images; to determine correctly upon the proper mode of treating his opinions; to govern, without making the patient feel sensible of his restraint. Experience also aids the superintendent, to discriminate between patients of different character and education and to apply a different remedy to every variety of character. He knows that the patient who has been accustomed to criminal, would be influenced by very different language from him who has been taught to obey—that the tender female and the sturdy sailor, should be governed by very different language and treatment. Upon the whole, it is the result of experience to treat the patient with freedom, yet without trifling; with decision, yet without severity; with a dignity, yet without austerity. These and a thousand other lessons are taught by experience, which nothing else can supply. Another advantage arising from insane hospitals is the profitable use of judicious coercion. This may be successfully employed in asylums, but in no other place. It was formerly considered as essential, in the good government of deranged men, that they should be beaten and chained; but experience teaches the converse—that as too frequent punishment is ineffectual and unnecessary. So true is this, that in the York Retreat, where there are originally seventy-four patients, only two at a time are confined, upon an average, for irregularity. The experience of other institutions, will show a similar result. The straight jacket and the muff together with confinement in a well-lighted and cheerful apartment, are the severest punishments which are used in asylums. Without coercion and

violence, the patient is taught that there is a power about him, which it would be in vain to resist. The home of the patient, where he is surrounded by objects with which he is familiar, and by persons who are his equals, of whom he has been accustomed to control, is the best place where restraint can be successfully imposed. By considering the prominent characteristic of derangement, we shall be satisfied how improper it is for the family of the insane to impose restraint. The deranged man, almost always, considers himself as of superior rank, and entitled to profound respect. He generally fancies that he sustains exalted stations in society, and is endowed with superior wisdom. One considers himself as a General, and regards the feathers with which he adorns his person, as the nobbling plumes of the warrior. Another, imagines himself to be an Emperor, and looks upon the garments which scarcely protect him from the inclemency of the weather, as the splendid robes of royalty. One considers himself as a Prophet—a messenger from Heaven, endowed with the power of looking through the veil of futurity, and revealing the secrets of the other world. Another believes himself to be the Messiah, the very God, holding in his hand the destinies of the Universe. With such exalted views of their importance, every attempt on the part of their family to restrain them, must increase and confirm, rather than correct their delusions.

I have adverted to some of the most prominent reasons why a hospital is the most advantageous place in which to provide for the insane. As additional arguments in favor of the propriety of the measure, let us next consider the increase and the practical effect of asylums. The first establishment of the kind was the Bethlehem hospital in London. We have little information respecting its early history, except, that it was wrested from the Catholics by Henry VIII., and by him given to the city of London, in 1537. A new building was erected in its stead, in the same place, in the year 1636. The next institution of the kind was St Luke's hospital, in London, founded in 1701. Up to this period, establishments of the kind could be regarded as little more than matters of experiment. Since then, so well have men been satisfied of the advantages resulting from them, that there are now thirty-six in England,

and size in France. There are establishments of the same description in Germany, Austria, Savoy; and the Netherlands. To the honor of our own country, many institutions of the kind have been established in the United States. They are to be found in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and South Carolina — and provision has recently been made for their establishment in Rhode Island and Maine. The rapid increase of these institutions proves to the world, that they are no longer matter of experiment, of doubtful success, but it testifies to mankind, that they have advanced the cause of humanity, and answered the expectation of their patrons.

Let us now attend to some of the facts, which show the practical effects of lunatic hospitals. To form a correct idea of the number of cures which have been effected in asylums, it is necessary to remember that patients are divided into two classes, *curable* and *incurable*. Curable patients are such as are deranged, but such as may be restored. Incurable patients are such as from long continuance of the derangement, old age of the patient, scitely on the head, and other causes, cannot, by possibility be cured.

I will, in the first place, furnish examples from Barron's on Insanity, of the number of cures which have been effected, where curable and incurable patients have been sent indiscriminately to hospitals. At St. Luke's hospital, out of 25,287 curable and incurable patients admitted, 7,253, or thirty-one in a hundred have been restored to sanity. In eighteen establishments in England, the united admissions of curables and incurables amount to 37,847. Of this number, 12,116 or 32 in a hundred, have been discharged cured. In Paris, in three consecutive years, 2,837 curable and incurable patients were admitted. Of this number, eight hundred and sixty-four, or thirty-one in a hundred, have been discharged cured. The admissions to the Salpêtrière hospital in Paris, amount to 10,682 curable and incurable patients. Of this number 3,618 or 34 in a hundred, have been restored.

I will now mention the number of cures effected among cases which are regarded as curable, when the patients are confined to the hospital during the first stages of the disease. The number of cures among curable cases, which are effected when patients are sent to hospitals within three

months after the first attack, is generally estimated at from eighty to ninety out of a hundred. To establish this fact, as well as to show the importance of establishing some place where immediate relief may be afforded, I will read an extract from the 8th annual report of the London Prison Discipline Society. Of forty-seven "patients admitted into the York Retreat within three months, from the commencement of the first attack, 46 were restored to their friends recovered; and of the remaining seven, three died so soon after admission, and of complaints under which they labored when they entered, as hardly to allow of the opportunity of recovery. Of the cases of persons in this establishment, who before their admission had been afflicted for a period exceeding three months, the proportion of cures appears to be as twenty-five to forty-five; and of those where the disease was of more than 2 years standing the proportion of cures was as fourteen to seventy-nine."

The number of cures, under the solitary mode of treating the deranged, is extremely small. It appears, from the report of your committee, that no member of it can call to mind a solitary instance of restoration, after the patient has been committed to prison, or to a house of correction. The Trustees, appointed to superintend the erection of the hospital at Worcester, in their report of January 1842, say, — "After all the attention we have been able to bestow on the subject, we cannot find more than three or four instances of cures after the patient has been subjected to the rigors of a goal or a house of correction."

The facts which I have stated are the result of a careful examination, and may be relied on as authority. Nothing can more forcibly illustrate the necessity of skilful attendance, immediately after the first attack. Let patients be conveyed to a hospital within three months after the first attack, and between 80 and 90 out of a hundred, may be restored. Leave them to the ordinary mode of treatment, for two years after the first attack, and then convey them to a hospital, and but little more than seventeen out of a hundred can be restored. With such assurance of recovery, if the patient is skilfully treated in the first stages of the disorder, is it not incumbent on the Legislature to aid in the establishment of an asylum? If we withhold our aid from the establishment of such an institution, we doom

many an insane man to linger out an existence of fifteen or twenty years within the walls of a prison, without any reasonable expectation of his recovery.

The number of insane persons in this State will remain the establishment of an asylum. The precise number cannot be easily determined. It is generally estimated at from two hundred and fifty to three hundred. Is it not, however, intended that the whole of this number are candidates for an insane hospital. Still, however, this number is sufficiently large to call forth the attention of all who have any claim to the character of benevolence.

The structure of the human mind illustrates the necessity of affording some safe receptacle for the insane. The productions of sense with call forth admiration at the strength and grandeur of the human faculties. But in advanced life their authors exhibit the astonishing spectacle of strength dwindling into weakness; and at even unable to comprehend in old age, what their own hand has written. Such is the natural and almost necessary decay of the powers of reason. But long before men experience the infirmities of age, the hand of Providence may, in a moment, withdraw from their support, and leave them the miserable subjects of frenzy. It would be humiliating to him who indulges in pride of intellect, that the man who, today, can dominate the world by the splendor of his genius, and explain the laws by which nature is regulated, from systems which he all space then to invincible substances with the best trends on, may, tomorrow, be a helpless, dependent man. While reason is spared to us, let us in no way employ it more completely to him who gave it, than by providing comforts for the wretched.

What similar argument shall be urged against the adoption of this measure? Shall we be reminded of the expenses resulting from it? It appears, by the report of your Committee, that they are trifling, from investigation and from the calculation of experienced medicals, that a suitable hospital can be erected and prepared for the reception of patients, for \$20,000. The resolution proposes the appropriation of \$12,500. The balance is to be raised by subscription. The sum proposed to be raised and applied to the erection of a hospital, is much less than the annual expense of supporting insane paupers in this State.

It cannot justly be said, that to support the demented in a hospital is more expensive than to maintain them in an ordinary manner. The individual $\frac{1}{2}$ who recently lectured in this hall upon the subject of insanity, and who from his unvaried attention to the subject, as well as from the acknowledged soundness of his judgment, is entitled to reliance, says that there is a succession of insane persons amounting, in number, to at least seventy-five in this State, supported at an expense of four dollars per week. This would amount to two hundred and eight dollars each for a year. According to this calculation, the annual expense to the public for supporting seventy-five insane paupers, would amount to \$81,000. Besides he states that there are many others supported by the public at a similar rate, and that the aggregate annual expense for the support of insane paupers, amounts to at least twenty-four thousand seven hundred dollars.

We may calculate the expense of supporting the insane poor on more favorable terms to the opponents of this measure, and even then it will appear that they can be maintained more advantageously in a hospital than in any other manner. According to returns made by the several towns in this to State the Governor, in 1832, there were at least one hundred insane persons supported as paupers. Suppose these paupers were supported at the low rate of \$7.50 cents each a week, it would make the annual expense of support of each, a fraction over \$100 a year. This would make an annual expense of supporting one hundred insane paupers \$10,000. By means of an insane hospital the same number of insane poor can be supported at a far less expense. Doct. Woodward, the superintendent of the Worcester hospital, in a letter, not to myself, but to another member of your Committee, uses the following language. "The whole expense, including salary of officers, clothing of state paupers, wear and tear of furniture, bedding, repairs, &c., will be from 25 to 120 dollars per annum each, if the patients average one hundred; for a less number the expense will be greater. Take the mean one, as the expense of supporting each pauper and the aggregate annual expense of supporting one hundred insane persons will be \$12,500 dollars, making a saving to the state of an annual sum of at least \$2,500."

In estimating the saving to the State, we cannot fail to consider the subject in another light. By the aid of a hospital, the number of insane persons would in the course of time be lessened. Judging from the authorities which I have introduced, about one-third of all, who are now insane in our State, might with the judicious treatment which a hospital affords, be restored. And if any correct inference can be drawn from other examples, I have cited, between eighty and ninety out of a hundred, may be restored if conveyed to a hospital, within three months after the first attack. Such have been the effects of these institutions in times past, and such would be the probable effect of an asylum upon such of our citizens as may be destined to become insane hereafter. In this point of view can such an institution fail to be matter of economy to the State?

In considering the advantages arising from hospitals, we cannot confine ourselves to cold calculations upon pecuniary interests. They are connected with the claims of humanity. The establishment of a hospital will afford the means of removing from the presence of many a family a member whom the hand of Providence has rendered incapable of social intercourse. One whose qualities and endowments made him an object of respect and love, but whose person no longer exhibits the temple, but the sepulchre of the soul. We cannot overlook the amount of physical suffering, which the establishment of a hospital will prevent. The corporal sufferings of the insane are incalculable. Even within the limits of this favored State, seventy six deranged persons, are confined in prisons, or are chained in barns and other out buildings. Here they are, indifferently clothed, their beds are generally of straw and in the most inclement seasons of the year, they are without fire. Some have lived in this situation for many years and unless a hospital shall be established they will continue in the same condition until death, like a messenger of woe, shall remove them from existence.

The mental sufferings of the deranged, which hospitals are intended to alleviate, are vastly more intense than any corporal distress. The delusions of the insane are the occasion of deep and indescribable suffering. At times, they imagine that the face of nature has undergone a change. While the air is pure and healthful, they believe it to be

filled with noxious vapours. Some believe that even their own person has undergone a change—that they are made of glass; and their timid and cautious step indicates their belief that they may be as easily destroyed as that brittle substance. Others suppose that they are transformed into inferior animals, and, breathless with terror, imagine they are pursued by humanity. While there are more than two hundred persons within the limits of our State, who are victims of such and other equally painful delusions, what pecuniary consideration can induce us to withhold our aid from an institution of such acknowledged utility? We have an individual interest to aid in this benevolent work. We have no personal insurance against insanity. That Being, who always acts from the wisest and best reasons, but which are often inscrutable to mortals, may deprive any of his creatures of reason, whenever he is pleased to do it.

I am impelled by every motive to oppose the motion to postpone this subject. If it is necessary to establish a hospital, public and individual interest alike require that it should not be delayed. Every consideration urges the immediate adoption of this resolution. The prospect of restoration of reason, the comfort and safety of the patient, and the security of many of our fellow-citizens, all urge the speedy adoption of this measure. Let it not be forgotten, that even now while we deliberate upon the subject, insanity, which has just commenced, may be permanently fixing itself upon some of our fellow-citizens, and that the ears of every neighborhood are day and night assailed by the shrieks of deranged men.

The advocates of this measure appeal to the members of this house, as friends of justice and humanity in behalf of this friendless and suffering class of our fellow-citizens. If we lend our aid to the passage of this resolution, it will be remembered with pleasure when the transactions of our lives shall be evaluated according to their real value, when we shall reflect, perhaps with greater satisfaction, upon the benefits we have conferred on others, than upon the temporal advantages we have secured to ourselves. In making this appeal the friends of this measure can be actuated by no sinister motive. The cause they advocate is the cause of humanity and mercy. The objects of it are an unfortunate class of men who cannot see or hear, or know their benefactors.

I have already occupied too much time, but I cannot close my remarks without making any additional appeal to the members of this House in behalf of the friendless, speechless maniac. Give him your protection and aid, and if you do not make him happy, you will at least remove a great portion of the sufferings which embitter his existence. And if a gleam of reason shall illuminate his mind for one hour before the termination of his existence, and he shall be permitted to give utterance to the language of his heart, in his last faltering words "he will call you blessed."

Enter News Letter, Aug. 26, 1854.

Our paper this week has not its usual variety. It seldom has a longer article and seldom a better one than Mr. Seaborn's speech on the subject of an asylum for the Insane. We have no expectation that such an Institution will be established in this State, until the public opinion shall be excited and decidedly expressed in its favor. The Legislature will not venture on so important a measure, involving the expenditure of the public money, until the public mind call for it, and urge forward its commencement and prosecution. It deserves the serious consideration of the people whether these idiots and the interests of humanity do not unite in requiring that an effort should be made to ameliorate the condition of the Insane. In most of our towns there are more or less of this class of sufferers; and whether supported by the fruits of their own past industry, by the contributions of their friends, or the public charity, they must be provided for and supported. The expense of their support is and must be met. The friends of a public Asylum insist that they can be better provided for, and with less expense, in such an Institution than in a private mad house; and that the prospect of their restoration to reason is as ten to one in favor of the former. We have little learning, but we have some feeling, on the subject, and we earnestly commend it to the hearts and hearts of our readers.

Enter News Letter, Aug. 26, 1854.

THE INSANE.

The following letter, was received a few days since, by an individual who has been somewhat interested in behalf of the Insane, from a Physician in this neighborhood of undoubted veracity. If you should deem a plain statement of no very unusual circumstances, of adequate interest to your readers, you will by publishing it confer a favor.

D—, Sept. 13, 1835.

Dear Sir: At our last interview you will recollect that the subject of the contemplated Asylum for the Insane, was introduced, and it was *believed* that the people of New Hampshire, if correctly informed, would unite heart and hand in the endeavor to ameliorate the condition of the "poor insane." The following facts, (which did not occur to me at that time,) are at your disposal.

In the winter of 1833, I was called to visit a poor man—the inmate of the Alms-house of a certain town in New Hampshire, which for the honor of human nature, but more particularly for the honor of those immediately concerned, I forbear to name. He was a man aged about forty-five years, more than half of which were years of gloom and suffering, being through the latter period insane. Forced to throw himself on the charities of the world, which are *fasted cold*, and whose tender mercies are *crust* in the treatment of the pauper lunatic, his sufferings like the wretched Cain's, became greater than he was able to bear, doubled even the power of reflecting, unlike that fratricide of old, that they were merited.

He was of course "set up at auction" at town-meeting, that glorious and humane manner of disposing of the unfortunate poor among us, and which particularly distinguishes our favored section of the country from lands lying in "perpetual darkness," and indeed I believe from the rest of the world. Carried about from one part of the town to another, now in want of a house not sufficient to shield him from the cold of winter or the pelting showers of summer, and now where the occupants were almost if not literally obliged to beg their daily bread. In the course of his weary pilgrimage through the parish, he has been "bid off" by the indigent, the worthless and the kind; he

shared by almost every species of human beings whose course, or what is worse, whose love of "strong New England," might induce to become the sincerest bidder. Traversing a town in this manner, with no one to sympathize with him in his distress, receiving sometimes a gentle rebuke and then a severe scold for his foolishness; so it is termed—was a painful share with the *violin*, thus a severe kick in order, as they very philosophically expressed it, "to make him know something." It was not so much matter what he had to say, and then, *he is every one and would ever have the difference!*

When the great house was established in the town above-mentioned, he was brought there truly an object of consideration, pale and exhausted, with scarcely power to walk—a mere skeleton. Having now a permanent home, we might hope that a small ray of light in this dark corner of the world might be granted to him. But not his former sufferings might be renewed fellow-creatures occupied with what he afterwards related. The apartment was small, and, as the mistress said, "he must put the study bath out to be the dead," which was in the same building, and separated only by a partition of rough planks, from the *carve*. The dreary month of November had nearly passed when the humane creature felt somewhat cheered from the appearance of the pale and fragrant countenance of this innocent of mortality, but he sought the throne above, and as he said "*like a bird above him*." In this direction he apothecary, as he used to call him, in the sphere of immortality, the heart of Schenck. These gentleman willing to do anything to accommodate, very humbly entered a place to be built in the cellar, so that the temperature in and about this dungeon remained the same. He was kept in the shade without fire or a sufficiency of food clothes, the lady observing that she was afraid if she moved him with fire that he would burn the house. Dealing his residence to the cellar apples, potatoes and other, from within a few feet of him; and as might have been expected, his birds shared the same fate. Let it be mentioned that during all this time he was perfectly passive and harmless.

Can the trials of the Spanish Expedition furnish a counter-part of reality like this? The Schenck happening to call and finding that he must soon die, advised to send

for a doctor. I happened to have the honor of being called, and found his feet and hands frozen, with other symptoms of extreme suffering from cold, which I cannot put upon paper. In this situation he lingered several days, when the welcome messenger, death, put an end to his sufferings. I do not hesitate to say that the immediate cause of his death, was being frozen in that cellar. Let those who were actors in this tragic scene, reconcile it with their consciences in the best manner they are able.

The foregoing is no wild excursion of the fancy, no flight of the imagination, but a plain statement of facts. Can a man in New Hampshire be found who is worthy to bear the name of a *man*, who would not contribute something, even ever so small, towards the relief of suffering like this. And, this, it is believed, is but one fact among the many which might be named of extreme mental and corporeal suffering among our indigent insane.

Yours with esteem,

Exeter News Letter, Oct. 11, 1836.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

We would remind our readers of the meeting of gentlemen in favor of an Asylum for the Insane, to be holden at Portsmouth on the first Wednesday of April next, and hope it will be well attended. The object is a good one, and has enlisted in its favor good men of all religious denominations and of both political parties. An expression of public opinion on this subject is necessary to secure the favorable action of the Legislature. Our law makers in this State are reluctant to open the purse strings of the Treasury; and unless satisfied that public opinion is not only prepared, but actually calls for the proposed Asylum, no appropriation will be made for it in June.

The voice of humanity, of justice, of policy, and we believe the voice of the people is in favor of the measure, and we hope it will be expressed in tones not to be misunderstood.

In looking over the names of the gentlemen who signed the call for the Portsmouth Meeting, we observe Clergymen, Physicians, Attorneys, Merchants, Mechanics, the leading

petitioners of both parties, and men entitled to the respect and confidence of all parties — united in this good work, — and heartily engaged in it. Many of these are men of wealth who need no aid from the State. Should they or theirs be deprived of health, strength, or reason, all that money could purchase, or friends or kindred afford would be pressed upon them. But they feel for others; and would extend to those less favored with the good things of this world, the means of relief from one of the worst maladies that can attack the body and the mind of man. We cannot accuse or suspect them of selfishness or ambition or party spirit. They neither ask nor expect that the proposed Asylum should be established in their town or neighborhood.

It would afford to none of them office or emolument. It can neither build up nor pull down a party or a sect. A full portion of the expenses of the establishment must come from its subscribers; and they will pay it cheerfully — yes, and far more than the assessors will impose upon them, or the tax-gatherer demand of them. In the last Portsmouth Journal is a letter from HENRY GOODENOUGH* of Portland, a native of this State, offering a subscription of two thousand dollars, towards founding an Asylum for the Insane. It is a noble act, which we trust our philanthropists and men of wealth will admire and imitate. But the accomplishment of the object should not be left to private effort and private liberality. The State should do it; and our Legislature should have every reasonable assurance that the public sentiment and expectation are in favor of the undertaking, and of its speedy accomplishment.

Dexter News Letter, March 22, 1836.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

The meeting at Portsmouth upon the subject of such an Institution, is to be held on Wednesday of next week. The Association has appointed a respectable delegation to attend it — and we presume most of the towns in this vicinity will be represented. It is important that they should be.

Dexter News Letter, March 29, 1836.

* See page 314.

MEETING FOR THE INSANE.

At a meeting of the Citizens of Exeter, on the evening of March 31—to take into consideration the expediency of establishing in this State “a Hospital for the Insane Poor.”

Col. James Barley was called to the chair, and Woodbridge Odlin chosen Secretary.

The meeting having been addressed by Wm. Odlin, Esq.—it was

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the chair to draft and present resolution for the consideration of this meeting.

The committee appointed were John Sullivan, John T. Burdham, William Odlin, John F. Moses and Theophilus Goodwin, who, by Mr. Burdham, reported the following Preamble and Resolution:

Whereas, suffering humanity is always entitled to the sympathies of a Christian community, and more especially have the Insane Poor stronger claims upon the public than any other class of citizens; but by reason of their seclusion from public view, facts have not yet been generally known in relation to their physical suffering; and thereby great indifference and apathy prevail among those whose duty it is to extend the hand of relief to such as are suffering by aberration of mind.

And whereas, it has been demonstrated by the result of repeated experiments in other States, that Insanity is a curable disease, and far more successfully treated in Asylums, provided for the comfort and cure of those deprived of their reason, and by men more thoroughly acquainted with this malady, than in any other way—therefore

Resolved, That in as much as the present laws of this State are wholly inadequate to afford relief to this suffering class of the community; it is in the opinion of this meeting, the duty of the Government to make provision commensurate with the condition of these unhappy people and afford every possible facility for their restoration to society and usefulness.

Resolved, That it is important by the dissemination of facts, to call the attention of the people of this State, to the subject of establishing an Asylum for the Insane.

The meeting having been addressed by John Kefey Esq., John Sullivan, Esq., J. P. Moses and Rev. J. N. Brown; the Preamble and Resolution were adopted.

Resolved, That a delegation be chosen to attend the contemplated Convention at Portsmouth, on the first Wednesday in April.

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed by the Chair to nominate a Delegation.

The committee appointed were J. G. Smith, James Odlin and Joshua Gutchell, who reported the following persons, who were subsequently chosen—

Rev. Mr. Smith, Mr. Hard, Mr. Brown, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Hatch, John Sullivan, Wm. Odlin, John Kelly, J. Y. Burdham, Peter Chedwick, Nathaniel Weeks, Ira R. Holt, J. G. Smith, Woodbridge Odlin, John Collins Long, Geo. Gardner, Freese Dearborn, Samuel Hatch, Joshua Gutchell, Joseph Head and Oren Head.

Resolved, That the Committee of nomination have power to fill any vacancies that may occur, or add to the list of delegation.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the *Exeter News Letter*.

Resolved, That the meeting be dissolved.

Woodbridge Odlin, Secy.

Exeter News Letter, April 5, 1836.

THE DOXENT. We have received the Report of the committee of our Legislature, upon the subject of an Asylum for the Insane. It was made towards the close of the last session, and ordered to be printed. The Report was drawn up by Dr. Bell, of Derry, and embodies so much of fact, argument, and statistics that it ought to be read by everybody who will be called on, before the next session of the Legislature, to vote on the expediency or inexpediency of establishing an Asylum. It appeals with great force to the feelings and the judgement—to the head and the heart, and the purse of the community. It attempts, and goes far, to reconcile the impulses of benevolence with the calculations of interest, and a liberal expenditure, for the object proposed, with true economy.

Exeter News Letter, July 18, 1836.

A circular has recently been issued, by a committee appointed by the Legislature of 1835, the object of which is to ascertain the number and condition of the insane in this State, together with the expense of supporting such as are paupers. It is important that individuals to whom Circulars have been addressed, should forward immediate and definite information relating to the insane, to members of the committee in their respective localities. The following questions, arising from the resolution contained in the circular, should be definitely answered.

What is the numbers of insane persons in the town in which you reside?

How long has each individual been insane?

Are they respectively supported at private expense, or as paupers?

If they are supported as paupers, what has been the expense of maintaining each per year?

Are they confined; if so how long has each been confined, and in what place?

Individuals have been addressed by the Committee, who, by reason of offices which they now sustain or have sustained, in the towns in which they live, possess the kind of information which enables them to reply, to the proposed questions.

The form in which the address is presented, entitles it to the highest respect. It is not an individual act, nor the act of a voluntary assembly of men intended to elicit information, for the purpose of gratifying curiosity. It is an address made by the Legislature, a body constituted by the people themselves, to superintend our common interests. It asks for information respecting the condition of the deranged, a class of the community wretched and neglected, but which has the strongest claims to legislative protection. Representations have been made to the Legislature, of the wretched condition of the insane, and it now asks for authentic information upon the subject. If real and unnecessary suffering is induced by the deranged, as a natural and necessary consequence of the present jurisdiction made for their support, the Legislature, after satisfactory evidence of the fact, will, probably afford relief. But it cannot be expected that the Guardians of the pecuniary interests of the State, will be induced, by a blind desire of doing good, to establish such an institution, without satisfactory evidence that sound policy requires it. It is, in effect,

to the people themselves, to whom the Legislature applies for information. Individuals to whom circulars have been addressed, should be influenced by respect to the voice of the government, to afford the requested information. They should be induced to do it, still further, by the regard which they entertain for the interest of the State, on the one hand and on the other by a desire to mitigate, and perhaps, entirely relieve the personal sufferings of the deranged poor, who, in imprisonment and chains, linger out their existence alone and unregarded, with scarcely a human eye to pity, and with no earthly friend or ability to relieve them.

Exeter News Letter, May 3, 1836.

An important question is to be voted upon by the voters, at the meetings on Monday — to wit: — “*Is it expedient for the State to grant an appropriation for building an Insane Hospital?*” We believe every newspaper, in the State answers in the affirmative — and all who have written upon the question, or publicly spoken upon it, have answered in the affirmative. It remains for the people to settle the question, and we hope they will reflect upon it seriously and answer it wisely.

Exeter News Letter, Nov. 1, 1836.

N. H. ASKED FOR THE ISSUES. As many persons would be willing to contribute small sums for the erection of an Insane Hospital, which they would not think sufficient consequence to put on the subscription paper, the editors of *Exeter* have thought it expedient to have a fair, and therefore request persons of all denominations, to meet on Wednesday next, at the room over Mr. Grant's bookstore to consult on what can be done.

Punctual attendance is particularly requested, if any interest is felt for this important object.

Conc. *Exeter News Letter*, Mar. 23, 1838.

THE FAIR.

We are informed that the Ladies of this town, are to have a Fair on Wednesday evening, for the benefit of the contemplated Insane Hospital. This exertion on the part of the Ladies, is highly praiseworthy, and we hope, that they will meet with that co-operation, on the part of our citizens which their efforts to relieve suffering humanity so justly merit. Every person, who feels disposed to contribute to this object, be the sum ever so small, can have an opportunity, with the assurance that it will be appropriated to the object for which they intend it. We hope every one will improve the opportunity, to contribute their mite, in aid of one of the most benevolent institutions which has ever yet been proposed to be established in the State of New Hampshire.

Con. Exeter News Letter, Aug. 21, 1838.

The LADIES FAIR, on Wednesday evening, for the benefit of the Insane Hospital, was well got up, well planned, well conducted, and well attended. An original song for the occasion, was written well, sung well, and, what was better, sold well. Our readers shall have an opportunity of deciding on its merits next week. We understand the net proceeds of the fair are nearly three hundred dollars.

Exeter News Letter, Aug. 28, 1838.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE. The committee to locate the Asylum in this State, met week before last at Worcester, to make their report. What their report is has not been officially made known. Rumor says that they have reported in favor of Portsmouth. If the location had been set up at auction, Portsmouth would unquestionably have been entitled to it. For that town, we believe, furnishes more than half the funds of the Asylum. But a disinterested and respectable committee having settled the question, (whether in favor of Portsmouth or Concord or any other place) we hope no professed

friend of the Institution will attempt either to misstate it, or to disaffect the public mind towards the committee or the Asylum.

Frederic News Letter, Aug. 12, 1859.

N. H. ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.—We understand the Universalist Society in this town have contributed \$50 towards the Asylum, and have appointed ISA B. HUNT, Esq., as their Representative at the meeting of the Corporation in Concord, tomorrow.

The Universalist Society in Rippow, have contributed the same sum, and have appointed the Rev. Mr. Shingley their Representative.

The example is a good one, and one which might be imitated by many other Religious Societies.

Frederic News Letter, January 8, 1859.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.—We shall probably have news in *New Hampshire*. The Committee appointed by the Corporation, and also by the Trustees, to locate the Asylum, reported in favor of Portsmouth. The Trustees, however, instead of acting upon the report, have postponed all action upon the subject until next summer. It is rumored that a small majority of the Trustees were in favor of accepting the report and proceeding in the business, but were pious to understand that if they proceeded so as upon it, the majority would withdraw, and leave the Board without a quorum. We do not believe this rumor for two reasons. In the first place, the minority would not offer such a threat; and, in the second place, if they did, the majority would not be deterred by it, from doing what they believed to be their duty.

Frederic News Letter, Oct. 8, 1859.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE. The Board of visitors have appointed four trustees on the part of the State, viz.: William Badger of Grafton, Josiah Quiner of Rumney, John Conant of Jaffrey, and Charles H. Peabody, of Concord. The trustees have appointed a committee to locate the Asylum consisting of the Superintendents of two Asylums, (the Asylum at the cities will have it so) in Massachusetts and of the Asylum in Vermont, together with three of their own number in this State. The committee is composed of Doct. Bell of Charlestown, Mass.; Doct. Woodward of Worcester, Mass.; Doct. Rockwell, of Brattleborough, Vt.; Doct. Twitchell of Keene, N. H.; Peabody of Concord, and Genl. W. Haven of Portsmouth.

Exeter News Letter, Feb. 26, 1837.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE. By the Governor's Message of the 10th, it seems that there has not been all that harmony between the Corporation and Trustees which is essential to the prosperity, if not to the very existence, of the Institution. According to the Act of Incorporation, the Asylum is to be under the direction and management of a Board of 12 trustees, — 4 of whom are appointed by the Governor and Council, on the part of the State, and 8 are elected by the Corporation. At the meeting of the corporation, in January, 8 Trustees were elected, and the 4 on the part of the State, have since been appointed. The Trustees thus elected suppose that to them belong the direction and management of the Asylum. The Corporation appear to be of the opinion that, if the Trustees have the powers they claim, the Corporation have the power and right to direct and manage the Trustees. They have accordingly adopted a code of by-laws, which as the Governor says "take away all power and control from the Trustees, and vest it entirely in the private subscribers to the fund calling themselves in those collective movements the Corporation. According to these by-laws, no act can be done by the Board of Trustees, except such as may be directed by the Corporation or by them, be entirely reversed and overruled." The Governor, on the other hand, contends, and we believe the Trustees and the Board of Overseers agree with him "that the entire management and control of the Institution,

of its funds, its investments and purchases are voted in the Trustees, and the Corporation as such, has no power to limit, control or direct their action."

The Governor expresses the hope—which is almost against hope—that the important questions of the Legislature may not be changed by the manifested difficulties and collisions that have occurred.

One private meeting of the Corporation, was, as has been told us on Friday, the day after the Governor's message was received, to determine, among other things, whether the Corporation will, in any contingency, direct the Treasurer to return the amount of subscriptions to the several subscribers, and discharge the same—and whether the Corporation will, in any contingency, surrender its charter and dissolve the Corporation. This meeting was called in the Parish of more than 200 members of the Corporation, residing principally in Portsmouth and in the County of Albany—men of wealth and influence, who will—no doubt—be a strong engine, but are not so much accustomed to voting or "backing out." If the controversy still continues, the New Hampshire Action for the Income, will be listed—in the State books, and it will do us anything but harm even then, while the circumstances connected with it shall be considered, or its legal history preserved.

Exeter News Teller, June 11, 1863.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF. At a meeting of the Corporation, lately held at Concord, the new restrictions the powers of the trustees, were considered, and a motion of voting and purchase apparently overruled. Both parties the voting agreed on the same committee of Location, this several committees to make proposals, &c., were called, this committee was constituted, which we present, with more and all harmoniously and efficiently.

Exeter News Teller, June 18, 1863.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE. John H. Steele, Esq. of Portsmouth, one of the Trustees, in the N. B. Patriot of the 20th inst., calls on his brethren to unite with him and agree on some central spot for the location of the Asylum, and proceed forthwith to erect the necessary buildings. He does not insist that it shall be located in Concord, but would be willing to locate it within 10 or 12 miles of the Capitol; and says— "I am ready and willing to join with any six of the Trustees and proceed accordingly to locate and erect the necessary buildings." It is hardly probable, however, that anything further will be done towards the location of the Asylum until after the meeting of the Legislature in June; and there is some reason to apprehend that what has hitherto been done will then be undone, and the poor insane be left to suffer until better times shall come, and a better spirit shall animate their friends.

The *New Hampshire Gazette* says that the town of Portsmouth did not rescind the vote of last year giving the surplus to the Asylum, but left that vote "in full force until the 1st of July next." The *Gazette* is undoubtedly correct, and if its explanation of the action of the town in reference to the donation to the Asylum, is satisfactory at home, nobody abroad will be disposed to complain of it.

Eastern News Letter, April 28, 1860.

THE DO-AXE ASYLUM. It is a matter of very considerable doubt, whether the Asylum will ever be established; but whoever will carefully consider the proceedings of Portsmouth in relation to this subject, will come to the conclusion that such an Asylum ought to be located, in that ancient and respectable town. Last year the inhabitants voted to give a large sum (of Uncle Sam's money) to the institution, if located in Portsmouth. Last month, preferring to keep Uncle Sam's money to themselves, they rescinded their former vote, and would not say thanks to the State for a dozen Asylums. Last week, they reconsidered the vote of the week before, and left things pretty much in *status quo ante bellum*—in a snarl that would puzzle a Philadelphia Lawyer. It might be well to establish a telegraphic communication from Portsmouth to the Connecticut River, so that the people of the State might be informed,

every two days, of the decisions of Portsmouth Town meetings, on questions touching the temperance and morality.

We beg pardon of the Doctor and the Liberator.
Exeter News Letter, April 11, 1847.

The project of establishing an Institution for sustaining the condition of the suffering Insane in New Hampshire, is a subject of intense interest to very many of our people: the success of which every philosophical mind earnestly desires. The general interest of humanity, the unfortunate condition of the class of persons for whom relief is sought, more especially if the taint of pauperism be added in lines of colour, and it may be said, and perhaps truly, the honour of the State, press this subject upon our consideration with almost irresistible force. If pauperism presents a stain to the morality of the people, which educated and Christian communities always abhor, the relief given being restricted only by the necessity for it, then indeed, justice as well as a wise and prescribed charity seems to urge the grant of a like measure of relief, if possible, to one when in the strong clutches of poverty, we added the fearfully interesting and still stronger claim of insanity. It is to be hoped that the Trustees of the "New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane," will be enabled to defer Report (as they wish to do) to the Legislature at its present session, agreeably to an act passed in June last, to show only reasonable grounds of hope, for its ultimate success in the undertaking, as well as ground for its just continued confidence and approval.

Exeter News Letter, Nov. 24, 1847.

Mr. Ransom, — I have spent a few hours in Concord, and I hasten to give you a few lines descriptive of what of interest has come under my observation.

The Asylum for the Insane is about one half mile from the main street. It is admirably situated and is an elegant building of brick. The body is four stories high and the wings three. The most elegant completely furnished and arranged to about \$40000. Dr. Chandler, the Superintendent, has been connected with the Massachusetts Asylum at Wareham. The Institution has been open but a few weeks.

There are now four patients. One of them was the most deranged person I ever saw. His noise was intolerable. It was said he lived an irregular, intemperate life. Another who I think was from Taftonborough, became insane under the excitement of the discussion of the end of the world next year.

I do not adopt the views of those who say that the end will come in a few months. But the subject is too solemn for jestation; and denunciation by the parties on either side is highly improper.

Exeter News Letter, Dec. 30, 1842.

EXTRACTS FROM
THE DOVER ENQUIRER.
INSANE HOSPITAL.

Mr. BARNARD. — The friends of humanity must rejoice that the project of establishing an Insane Hospital in the State is again revived. — The age in which we live is marked, above all other ages, by the spirit of Philanthropy, and we would not willingly suffer others to provide us in good works in vain. The subject has before been agitated, we know; and we should regret to remember that the wish of the public was lately slightly opposed to it. If we had not reason to hope that we might soon forget the past, so a lively remembrance of a cause badly opposed is in favour. It cannot be that the slight expense of establishing the Institution in question can be any reasonable objection to it. The tax upon each individual need be extremely small. Besides, no man ever fails the poorer, for any sum of money which he may cheerfully give in the cause of benevolence. The widow, who had her bed with her, told the Treasurer to the point out of the Tenants-house felt in herself much more rich, when she went to bed at home and pay for her daily board, than the pious Philanthropist, who went to his bed to die from years of toil. — "Money," says the

Post,—is twice blessed: "It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes." And men were not endowed with heavenly impulses in vain. To do good, and to endure sacrifices in doing good, has always been found by all who have tried it, the source of exquisite pleasure. It cannot be, that any wise estimate of the value of wealth is to keep us from building a Hospital for the benefit of the Insane. The public mind needs only to be enlightened. There are prejudices of remote origin against Hospitals for the Insane, which a slight effort, it is to be expected, will remove. The advantages, which such institutions present for the cure of insanity, have never yet been extensively made known; and the mere presentation of facts to show what has been done, may lead the public, with one voice, to resolve that our suffering fellow citizens shall no longer be destitute of the aid and relief, which a Hospital for the Insane would eminently afford.

And can Insanity be cured? It is indeed a most terrible disorder. We shudder more, when the maniac laughs with apparent joy than when our ear is struck by his appalling shriek. The loss of reason we lament, as if it were the destruction of the soul. Years often pass away, and kind friends still mourning over the apparent ruin, or forgetting, as long since dead, the friend whose eye glances often sensibly upon them. But thanks to the mercies of Providence, as we look upon the ravages of insanity we are now persuaded to believe that the mind remains unimpaired. Ignorance may contract, and error may pervert the understanding; sin, by its pollutions, may corrupt and destroy the sensibility of the soul. No other diseases than these can affect with real or permanent evil the mind of man. They have their appropriate remedies, and yield to intellectual and to moral treatment. Insanity is but a disease of the *faculty* system; and like a fever is found to yield to physical remedies. The success, with which those have met, who have of late made this disease their peculiar care, is truly surprising. While once the maniac was looked upon as a person devoid of life senses by the special visitation of Heaven, whom it might be impiously to expect to restore to his right mind, now it is found that a very large proportion of the Insane, who are placed early in Hospitals, are shortly returned possessed of reason to their friends. In the Hospital, lately established at Worcester, Mass., it is found that

when insanity has continued less than one year; from eighty to ninety out of a hundred cases speedily yield to remedial measures. In the year 1876, the Superintendent's Report, which sets out before us, one hundred and six patients, it appears, were discharged from the Hospital. Of this number, fifty-seven had recovered; fifteen had been improved; eight had died, and twenty-four were discharged for want of room. Of these one hundred and six cases, fifty-seven were males; that is, of less than one year's duration; and forty-nine were cases of longer standing. The recovery was 51.5 per cent. of the whole number. The recovery in cases of less duration than one year was 51.5 per cent. The recovery in old cases, were, exclusive of those discharged for want of room, 50 per cent. Since the commencement of the Institution, of one hundred and sixty-one cases that were admitted into the Hospital during the last year of insanity, 115 recovered, or are cured; one died, six were removed without a sufficient trial of treatment; then only remained in the Hospital, at all times, at the time when the report was made; and of these, only one was *deemed to be incurable*. Were the statistics in regard to any fever, *what power it flows the human frame, subdued*, it is to be doubted if they would show so few deaths, and so many entire recoveries. The proper treatment instant and judiciously administered. Violence, noise and excitement are immediately restrained; and in a few days, a patient, dangerous in the extreme, sometimes becomes calm and rational, and the disease apparently removed.

But these happy results are not to be obtained without peculiar means. Other diseases yield most readily under the spell of calm and untroubled faces. Not so with insanity. Hence, from the very nature of the case, it admits a place of quiet to a new home. Further continuance becomes the object of his special dream or desire; and the sufferer is most frequently found recoverable, only by a removal from the midst of those causes which have produced his disease, and from the neighborhood of those persons and places associated with them in his mind. The address published a few days since in the public papers, states that nearly two hundred of our fellow citizens are suffering from the name of an Institution, in which alone there is probabi-

By that their disease will be overcome. By the establishment of such an Institution, with no greater success than that with which the Worcester Hospital has been visited, one *hundred and forty four* of these individuals will be restored to health and reason: and in the course of one year, more than eighty per cent. of those who have not been long insane, shall return to the exercise of sound minds, to their stations of usefulness in the community, and to be the means of comfort and happiness, instead of agony and terror to their friends.

II.

Times Enquirer, May 1, 1838.

THE ADVANTAGES OF A HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

It needs no very graphic pen to portray the horrors of insanity. The disease, in its severest forms, is not so uncommon, that it is necessary to inform the public of the sufferings, which the Insane endure. The cruelties, which are practised upon those, whose cases have long appeared hopeless, are well known. It has been believed, until lately, that those cruelties were necessary that a proper restraint and discipline could not be maintained without them. And momentary to say, those cruelties have been inflicted by relatives and friends, under the sad mistake, that the Insane were not sensible to them. Humanity shudders at the discovery that those sufferings are felt. The flesh of the human is still susceptible to pain; and his silent wailings, or his cries of anguish, are only demonstrations to us, that, however mistaken may be the faculties of the mind, his heart has lost none of its sense of suffering. We pity a brain who suffers; but he can give us no manifestations of suffering to compare with the tears and groans and entreaties of the senses. Why do we shudder at the sight of one insane? It is not alone, because we see the reason of a man dethroned; nor from any fear of injury to ourselves from the violence of his passion; but because his eye, his countenance, his voice, his motions, all betoken an intensity of suffering, such as, we perceive, we have seldom witnessed or conceived. We need a Hospital: not only to relieve those, whose shudders, at midnight are disturbed by the cries of Insanity, and whose days are sullied by its constant sight;

and whose hearts, too, are hardened, by that dreadful treatment, which from ignorance of the means of treatment and care, they feel constrained to inflict: but we need a Hospital to save, from bodily torment and from mental anguish, the insane themselves.

In a Hospital, they can be exempted from the intensity of their sufferings. The man, who for years has torn to shreds every article of clothing offered to him, whose violent passion endangered, except in the closest confinement, the lives of all around, who devoured his food like a wild beast, and lived and appeared to delight in filth, after a few weeks or months abode in a hospital, becomes quiet, preserves his clothing whole, and his personal appearance neat, sits at the table to take his meals like a rational creature, and, without a chain, freely walks the grounds, and engages, with interest, in the common labours of agriculture. At Worcester, it has been no uncommon sight to see two men at work together in the fields, both insane, and both, in the earlier periods of their insanity, having committed homicide. Think what suffering, those poor creatures must have sustained before the hospital was erected, and what calms, peace and happiness they are now enjoying.

The insane can seldom be cured in private. No physician, it is evident, can understand this disease so well as one, who is familiar with its various forms and appearances, and who make their study, the great object of his interest. The friends of an insane person, however kind in their dispositions, by half injury to ever lies of affection, they may be bound to him, but very seldom understand or maintain the laws of conversation and conduct toward him, necessary for his relief. Their best intended endeavors, and their most soothing words, often result in aggravating instead of relieving his disease. Their minds are heavily depressed with a sense of their own calamity. Fear and grief keep them in constant suspense and agony. When a member of any household is attacked with insanity, the first emotion which presents itself is fear, and the first thought the necessity of self-defence. No one knows what to expect. Where there is a distracted person, there is a distracted house also. The minds of the whole household are kept in a state of excitement and of nervous anxiety. Their tempers are exasperated, or thrown into continual confusion.

This is the case to some extent, even when any member of a family is attacked by a fever, or any common but dangerous disease: how much greater is the excitement, confusion, suspense and anxiety, when any one is attacked by that most strange, most uncertain of all diseases, Insanity.

How different in a Hospital. Each attendant, by long familiarity with the disorder, knows what to expect, or is schooled to sufficient presence of mind, to bear with perfect self-possession, any unexpected manifestations of insanity. All the operations of life go on with their accustomed regularity. No one fears for his own life or property. No one need feel any anxiety, lest the insane person should find the means of self-destruction. Calmness and decision, in manner and conduct, mark the attendants in Hospitals for the Insane. The madman is subdued without the severity of the scourge, he is confined without necessity for the chain. He is inspired with awe by the perfect self-possession which reigns in all his attendants, instead of being excited by the terror which often marks the countenances and conduct of those not accustomed to the cure of the Insane. It is exceedingly necessary that those, who have the care of an Insane person, should feel that they are competent to their charge. How seldom can this be felt in the private dwelling, and how seldom do friends and relatives continually feel themselves, to meet the unexpected emergencies, which may arise, or to treat with proper conduct a disease, which they cannot understand. In a Hospital, each person is chosen, because competent to his charge. The exaltation of the mind inspires him with no fear, and he listens, unprovoked by the violence of his provocations.

How very few private individuals understand, or can put in practice, if they understand, the common principles of daily conduct, which it is necessary to observe even in the treatment of one whose insanity is never violent. Most persons speak with ease, who labour under some hallucination, as if he were what he represents himself, a king, an emperor, or the Saviour of the world. By such a course of conduct, they impress more deeply upon his mind his mistaken ideas. In the moment of returning reason, when he attempts to understand his situation and recover himself from his delusions, his reason convinces him that he is what he thought himself: but he remembers the language he has received, or the

treatment, whatever it may be, which was suitable to the character he had assumed. In a private family many motives conspire, to induce its members to treat, in this manner, one who is insane. It seems innocent, to foster the delusion: it appears cruel, to treat, according to his real circumstances one thus deluded. It seems to them sometimes the readiest means to remove his insanity. They, too, who have learned otherwise, often dare not oppose the delusions of the insane, and if every member of a family, in which an insane person is found, were well calculated to have the cure all this, how many strangers are necessarily introduced, who do not understand and dare not prescribe the proper method of treatment.

But in a Hospital, an insane person is safe from all the errors of mistaken friends, and from all the effects of their unreasonable fears. No one more deceptive. No one discourages an insane person in his delusive ideas of dignity of character, station or power. Every opportunity is used, "when the mind is calm and the feelings kind, to impress on the insane that they are men; to excite in their minds rational contemplations; to encourage correct habits, awaken self-respect, and prompt to active duty." The Hospital is the place of safety, and the place of happiness for the insane. It is the means, too, of supplying affection to lost or the surcease of friends. It offers, in almost every case, to those whose names have not been of long continuance. The establishment of Insane Hospitals is one of the triumphs of Christian Benevolence. They are the shrines of kindness. As a perpetual memorial of the benevolence, which creates them, they stand as testifies to the world that *divine accommodation*. — *Reverend Amos A. Phelps* has said: "We are all madmen."

A great effort has now been commenced to erect such an Hospital in this State. For the sake of our suffering friends and brothers, if it were not too selfish a consideration, I might say, regarding our own exposure to this dreadful complaint, let us aid in this good cause. The blood, which is spared freely to give, shall find that the blood, which wounds its veins, is flowing from a heart which God has blessed. Let us build this Institution. Let our Aetna be moved to inspire our children, and our children's children, with kindly and generous emotions, and to send the

stranger who may venture to seek a home among us, that life has been cast in a land, where the forsaken are never deserted, where tears never flow unheeded and where the image of God is never suffered to remain, a monument of ruin, animated by the spirit which its Maker gave it.

B.

Dover Engineer, May 8, 1838.

N. H. ASYLUM.

There is little prospect that the Institution will ever get into operation; if the corporation does not manage to pierce, by its own dissensions, before next June, the "action of the legislature," of which the *Patriot* speaks, we have little doubt, will give it the finishing blow.

Dover Engineer, Sept. 24, 1838.

EXTRACTS FROM THE NASHUA GAZETTE.

Insane Asylum.—At a meeting of the Board of Visitors for the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, held at Concord on the 10th Inst., His Excellency Isaac Hill was chosen a Trustee on the part of the State in the place of Hon. Wm. Badger, who declined the appointment made at a previous meeting. We understand that the transfer of the State stock has been made, and that the location and other arrangements as will ensure the speedy progress of the work will soon be made. The next meetings will amount all concerned.

Nashua Gazette, May 24, 1839.

The Insane Hospital.—We have noticed in several papers, such as the *Keene Sentinel*, *Concord Eagle*, *Concord Courier*, and others, a series of attacks upon Gov. Hill and others for the delay or refusal to transfer the State Stock vested by the State to the asylum. We regret to see it because we think it ingenuous and unjust and calculated to endanger the best interests of the Institution. Partial feelings and local jealousy should have no place in so holy a work of charity as this. We know the origin of the difficulties, and the aims of the disaffected, but we have too

force and shall forbear to make any comments upon the conduct and intentions of any individuals. We hope and trust that the members of the Corporation will come together, with the good of the institution alone at heart, throwing aside all selfish feelings, and actuated by the purest and most generous motives. Some sacrifice must be made upon both sides for the sake of the Hospital. To quarrel over such an enterprise would be most disgraceful. There is nothing of politics in the division, and if the members will talk the subject over calmly, and with a sincere desire for peace, all will be well.

The Board of Trustees held a meeting at Concord last week, at which they appointed a Committee to receive proposals for a location. A Committee of location was also appointed, consisting of Drs. Bell, Woodward, and Rockwell; the superintendents of the three Hospitals at Charlestown, Worcester, and Brattleborough. The same Committee had been previously appointed by the Corporation for the same purpose, and possesses the confidence of all parties. We hope they will proceed and make a thorough examination of all places which may be suggested as suitable for an Asylum, and we doubt not that they will select such an one as will give general satisfaction. For ourselves we should prefer its location in Nashua. We have some fine spots, and there are few towns which possess such ready means of communication with so many towns in the State. We hope at all events that the Committee will give us a look, and if our local position shall not be considered objectionable, our citizens will not be behind their neighbors in the liberality of their offers.

The Trustees are gentlemen of high standing in whom the public have confidence. They belong to both political parties, and to all sections of the State. Thus far they have proceeded in great harmony. We learn that it is their wish that the decision of the locating Committee, who are competent and disinterested men, should be final, and that the same wish has been very generally expressed by the members of the corporation. To this course we can see no reasonable objections, and we believe that every man who cares more for the success of the Asylum than for selfish ends, will cheerfully abide the result.

Nashua Gazette, May 31, 1839.

The Boston Herald. We are sorry that the editor of the *Kent Sentinel* is so cruel and unbecomable. We pity his hallucinations upon this subject, and hope that the spirit of the Senate Chamber may restore his equanimity. If not we shall recommend him to the care of Dr. Bell, and expect that the Trustees will prepare a suitable room in the Hospital when completed, for his comfortable accommodation.

The statements made by the *Sentinel* with regard to the Trustees are very erroneous, and should be corrected. Of the six Trustees present at Concord, three were chosen from each political party, and they were unanimous in their decision. The *Sentinel* says that "five out of six were determined in favor of locating the Hospital at Concord." This is said without authority, and is untrue. This attack on Mr. Abbott, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Ames is duly appreciated. The *Sentinel* further says: "Suppose the Committee had almost recommended a site which does not suit the views of the Trustees? They give us to understand that they are not bound by it, but will disregard it, and will do the thing up in their own way!" There is not a shadow of truth in this assertion, the Trustees instead of giving us to understand that they are not bound, but will disregard it, have unanimously agreed to abide by the decision of the locating Committee, and that it shall be final.

We might say much more, but the subject is important, and we forbear. We do not learn that the opposition is very serious or extensive. It is a contest for the location between Kent, Concord, and Portsmouth. In such a case the impression will be, not of men of selecting gentlemen from those towns, as members of the locating committee. That they should advise is proper, but members who do not make the feeling of a residence in those towns, and still preserve the necessary communion between the residents of the Asylum and its location in either of them. They might pretty well consider not so much "interested," and that the location made by the three Superintendents out of the State gentlemen, as the *Sentinel* truly says, "promised to have no problem, but looking solely to the greatest good of the institution"—should be final and conclusive. Can any true friend to the institution object to their decision?

Newton Gazette, June 1, 1860.

The Insane Hospital.— We have alluded to this subject several times recently in reply to attacks made upon the Trustees from certain quarters, and have the satisfaction now of stating that the difficulties are settled. At the meeting of the members of the Asylum held at Concord on Friday last it was voted as we learn that the Drs. Woodward, Bell, and Rockwell, the Superintendents of the three Hospitals at Worcester, Charlestown and Bristleborough, should be the locating committee, and that their decision should be final. A committee is appointed to receive proposals which must be handed in by the first of July. This is the course pursued by the Trustees, and they merit the commendation of every friend of the Hospital for the manly independent stand which they have taken. The Corporation resolved by a large majority, and in spite of a few who sought to make difficulty, the objectionable clauses in the by-laws by which the Corporation claimed to exercise a control over all the doings of the Trustees. This alone would have deprived the State of all voice in its management, and rendered the Trustees mere tools of the Corporation.

Nashua Gazette, June 14, 1839.

Insane Hospital.— The committee appointed to receive proposals for the location of the Hospital for the Insane will meet at Wilder's Indian Head Coffee House, on Tuesday, July 23, to commence their preliminary examination. Will not our citizens be prepared to show them a proper site, and make suitable proposals? Our situation is more central than that of either Keene or Portsmouth, on account of the great facilities of communication with every part of the State. Stage routes from almost every town centre here. Within two hours ride of Boston we enjoy the benefits of a seaport as well as a country market. No village is more healthy, nor are there many spots more beautiful than some of those which overlook the valley of the Merrimack or the Nashua. Will not our citizens wake up?

Nashua Gazette, July 21, 1839.

New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane.— The committee appointed to locate the Asylum have examined all the locations which have been pointed out to them for that purpose, at Keene, Concord, Hopkinton, Dover, and Portsmouth, and will hold an adjourned meeting on the 29th inst., at which time their decision will be made. They are excellent men, and we trust their decision will be satisfactory.

New-Hampshire Gazette, June 25, 1839.

The N. H. Asylum for the Insane.

We learn from the *Keene Sentinel* that the Committee have unanimously recommended Portsmouth as the place for the location of this Institution. The liberal offer made by that town, \$25,000, probably determined them in its favor. We have always thought a location near the centre of the State to be highly important, but the Committee were intelligent and impartial men, who know better than we can all the requisites for an Asylum, and we must acquiesce in their decision. We trust that the work will soon be carried forward with vigor, and that ere a number of days will no longer before it shall be in operation. The building now stands with 808/1000, a sum sufficient to erect and furnish all necessary accommodations, and leave a large fund to defray the expenses of the poorer patients, sparingly for the use of the subscription. We hope that the Trustees will be encouraged by their plans, and think more of convenience and cheaply, than of a splendid edifice. Extraneousness is the great evil in these institutions, and we therefore take the liberty of entering our protest in season.

New-Hampshire Gazette, August 16, 1839.

From the Governor's Message.— The project of establishing an Institution for ameliorating the condition of the suffering insane in New Hampshire, is a subject of intense interest to very many of our people; the success of which every philanthropist would sincerely desire. The general interests of humanity, the unfortunate condition of the class of persons for whom relief is sought, more especially if the ill of pauperism be added to the sin of madness, and if may be said, and perhaps truly, the honor of the State, press this sub-

The estimated cost of board for the inmates is little short of \$2 a week, provided 120 can be induced to enter the Institution.

It is to be hoped now, the erection of the Asylum will commence forthwith, and that the unfortunate Insane of our State who have so long suffered under the pains of mental alienation may have a place where their miserable condition can be ameliorated.

In addition to the N. H. Asylum, the people of Portsmouth and vicinity contemplate building one by the name of the Piscataqua Asylum for the Insane. They have so far received a charter for that purpose.

Newez Gazette, Dec. 18, 1840.

**EXTRACTS FROM
THE CHRISTIAN PANOPLY.
ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.**

The corporation assembled on Wednesday evening, a committee was appointed to report on the subscription list, when it was found that more than \$17,000 had been subscribed; and the committee was directed to inform the Governor, that the subscription of the State may be transferred to the corporation. The corporation adjourned till Thursday morning, the eight trustees had not then been appointed.

The Asylum will be built where, is uncertain.

Christian Panoply, Jan. 11, 1832.

At the meeting of the corporation of the Asylum for the Insane, last week, the eight trustees to be chosen by the corporation, were elected and are SAMUEL COUES, GEORGE W. HAVEN, PORTSMOUTH; WILLIAM HALE, DOVER; JOSEPH LOW, CONCORD; DR. DIX CROSBY, HANOVER; DR. TWITCHELL, KEENE; DANIEL ABBOTT, NASHUA; and J. H. STEELE, PETERBOROUGH.

CHARLES J. FOX, Nashua, Treasurer.

The Governor and Council are to appoint four more. The corporation adjourned to the 30th inst. then to meet at this place; when the manner of location will be agreed upon.

Christian Panoply, Jan. 18, 1832.

N. H. Asylum for the Insane.— The four Trustees elected by the Governor and Council, are William Badger, of Gilmanton; C. H. Peaslee, of Concord; J. Count, of Jaffrey, and J. Quincy, of Ramsey. The corporation held an adjourned meeting in Concord, Jan. 20. Dr. A. Twitchell of Keene, was elected President; and J. Waldron, Vice President of the corporation, Dr. C. Crosby of Hanover, Secretary; James Thom, Esq., of Derry, Treasurer.

After a discussion of three hours, a committee of six was appointed to locate the Asylum.

Dr. Bell, of the McLean Asylum, Charlestown; Dr. Woodward, of Worcester and Dr. Rockwell, of Brattleborough, were the committee out of the State; Dr. Twitchell, Mr. Peaslee, and Mr. Haven, were a committee of the Trustees. There seems to be a strong determination not to locate the Asylum in Concord. Other towns will give more; and there is a reluctance to place it under Concord influence.

Probably there is no place more convenient for the whole State than this; and were it not for local prejudices, Concord would doubtless be selected.

Christian Prophecy, Feb. 8, 1839.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASYLUM AND THE INSANE.

An adjourned meeting of the members of the Corporation of this Institution, was held at Concord on Wednesday, the 5th of January. On the subject of the location, it was decided that a committee consisting of the superintendents of the asylums in Massachusetts and Vermont, together with three individuals from this State, one in the centre, one in the eastern, and one in the western part, should determine where it shall be located. This decision of the corporation, should satisfy every friend of the Institution. The gentlemen who compose the committee of location are Dr. Woodward, Supt. of Asylum at Worcester, Mass., Dr. Bell, Supt. of Asylum at Charlestown, Mass., Dr. Rockwell, Supt. of Asylum at Brattleborough, Vt., to be joined by George W. Haven of Portsmouth, C. H. Peaslee of Concord, and Dr. Twitchell of Keene.

The selection of these competent, independent and impartial men, who have no prejudices or prepossessions, joined with those of the Trustees, every way qualified to give all

necessary information in relation to the different parts of the State, ensures that the location will be made with a judicious regard to all matters which should properly influence the decision. With that decision we should all determine that we will be content.

Should the committee deem a central situation necessary, we may feel assured that such an one ought to be adopted. Should they think other circumstances of more weight and importance, all persons may feel satisfied that the benevolent object of the association may be as well promoted in a place, which if not central, has other advantages to counterbalance it.

If the friends of the cause cherish this spirit, there will be no difficulty, no heartburnings.

If, on the contrary, each is determined to adhere pertinaciously to his favorite place, many must be disappointed.

If we propagate the opinion that discontent will exist, if this or that place is not selected, it will certainly in that way be created.

To our shame be it said, if any local interests or local jealousies shall interfere and retard the accomplishment of such a benevolent purpose, or prevent us from giving the cause a heart-felt support, wherever the Asylum may be located.

Whenever this decision is made known; wherever the committee shall determine the building to be erected, let not the emotions of the benevolent be lessened, but let their aid in this noble cause of humanity be commensurate with the demands of the sufferers, whom the institution is designed to benefit.

Cheshire Republican,

Christiana Pioneer, Feb. 28, 1833.

Insert.—The Governor has transmitted the funds which the State subscribed, to the Treasurer of the Corporation. Governor Hill is also appointed Trustee instead of Governor Badger, who declined.

Christian Pioneer, May 31, 1833.

INSANE ASYLUM.

The committee of location met at Worcester, on Tuesday of last week; made up their decision, sealed it, and forwarded it to the President of the Trustees. The decision is probably not made public. Pretty strong conjectures have been raised, that the place selected is Portsmouth. But we believe we are yet to learn where the selected spot is. We expected it would be in Merrimack county; and can hardly believe it will be carried to one side of the State.

Christian Propagator, Aug., 1829.

INSANE ASYLUM.

The *Portsmouth Journal* of Oct.,* contains two communications from George W. Haven and Samuel E. Cases, Trustees of the Asylum; in which they give a statement of the proceedings of the Trustees at their last meeting. The Legislature at the last session, amended the last charter, and assigned additional powers to the Trustees. The motion to organize under the new charter was carried, 6 to 5. Yeas—Conant, Lox, Hill, Peaslee, Steele, Crosby. Nays—Twitwell, Atherton, Abbott, Coates, Haven. Absent—Quincy. The motion to accept the report of the locating committee was negatived, 5 to 6; the above names reversed. After a long discussion and some warm words, a vote was taken to postpone all further action till June 28th, of next year. Yeas—Conant, Lox, Hill, Peaslee, Steele, Crosby, Abbott.

The gentlemen from Portsmouth indicate that the majority of the Trustees wished to defeat the location at Portsmouth, for the purpose of having it at Concord. As far as we have heard, the gentlemen who objected to Portsmouth, did it because the location was not central to the State. Had the locating committee fixed on any other town near the centre, besides Concord, this town would have made no complaint. If Hopkinton, or Penelope, or any other town had been selected, we confidently believe that no one would have complained. The implication is therefore wrong, that

*See page 202.

Concord must oppose everything that does not find its centre here. It is generally conceded that the centre of the State is about as large as any part; and if that were an argument, the location should be here.

Christian People, Oct. 18, 1859.

INSANE ASYLUM.

The subject is before the Legislature. From information derived from one of the members, we are of opinion that the State will not confirm the decision to locate this Institution at Portsmouth; but will pass a resolution to take the funds given by the State, into their own hands, and give leave to the subscribers to withdraw their subscriptions or continue them, at their option. The State would then take the control of the Asylum, and locate it where it was judged best—somewhere near the centre of the State. If located in any of the towns in Merrimack county, the town of Concord will not find fault. If it comes here they will be glad; if to any of the neighboring towns, they will acquiesce; or if the location is made at Portsmouth, no resistance will be made. We are not prepared to give an opinion as to the course which prudence dictates and humanity demands. That an Asylum ought to be prepared, is unquestionable; where, and by whom directed, is for others to decide.

Christian People, June 19, 1859.

REPORT
OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE
TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
UPON THE SUBJECT OF BUILDING
AN INSANE HOSPITAL.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE HOUSE.

SECOND EDITION.

CONCORD, N. H.
PRINTED BY HILL AND BARTON.
FOR THE STATE.
1872.

The Committee to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the building of an Insane Hospital, consists of

Messrs. WEBSTER, of Plymouth;
COLES, of Portsmouth;
SCATES, of Middleton;
SANDORN, of Wrentham;
BARNES, of Hocksett;
SMITH, of Dublin;
TIBBETTS, of Woburn;
CLEMENT, of Springfield;
BAUELOER, of Hempstead;
HARRIS, of Brooklyn.

The Committee, to which was referred "as much of the Governor's Message as relates to the return of the insane persons in this State," ask leave to

REPORT:

Insanity is one of the most afflictive dispensations of Providence. Whatever be the form which this deplorable calamity assumes, to the man it is the end of all usefulness and the closing of all the avenues of enjoyment, and to the family of the sufferer it is but one continued scene of solicitude, if not of terror. The unfortunate being appears to exist only to suffer, and to excite, most painfully, the sympathies of those with whom he is connected. From the nature of the case, an examination into this subject must present to the House a melancholy account of suffering and distress. The committee was not, however, prepared for the result which the examination afforded. They were not aware of the extent of the disease. They had formed no conception of the extremity of the wretchedness to which the insane are reduced. In the prosecution of the inquiry, by the returns made to the executive and by the collection of facts on this subject from those professionally acquainted with the condition of the insane, their situation throughout this State is found to be deplorable in the extreme, for the mitigation of which the prompt attention of the Legislature is imperatively demanded.

The number of the insane, as returned to the Governor, is two hundred and one, more than half of whom are supported as paupers. From many towns no returns have been received, from others the accounts are erroneous, there being cases known to the committee which escaped the notice of the selectmen. The actual number of insane is therefore much larger than appears by the documents to the committee.

Where are these inmates—what is their condition? There are individual cases, which, by the kindness of friends able and willing to provide the means, are rendered as comfortable as their situation will admit. The number thus fortunate, the committee are constrained to believe, is comparatively small.

Many, laboring under an offensive hallucination of mind, wander about, the sport of unthinking boys and unprincipled men. A large proportion, seventy-six, are reported to be in close confinement. Some of them in chains, or in cages made for their imprisonment; some are in the out-buildings, garrets, or cellars of private houses; some are in our county goals, shut up with felons and criminals of every description; some are in almshouses, in brick walls "never warmed by fire or lighted by the rays of the sun." The facts presented to the committee not only exhibit severe, unnecessary suffering, but utter neglect, and in many cases actual barbarity. To corroborate the House of the correctness of this general remark, they feel it to be their duty to report some of the instances to which they refer, however painful the account may be to every one not dead to all feelings of humanity. An Irish woman who had wandered from her friends was confined in one of our goals in winter and without fire. From the severity of the cold and her fixed posture her feet became so much diseased that it was considered necessary to amputate them at the ankle; which was accordingly done, and the woman afterwards restored to her friends in this mutilated condition. Another female was confined in a garret, where, from the hardness of the roof and her consequently constrained position, she grew double, and is now obliged to walk with her hands as well as feet on the floor. A man was confined for years in a cellar, nearly naked, with a bed of wet straw.

Another is at this time chained to the floor in an out-building. "glad to pick the bones thrown into his kennel like a beast"—one, with sufficient property—once in every respect as active and happy as the best of us. It is admitted that these are extreme cases; but let it be recollected these are but a few of such cases known to the committee. The accounts submitted to them exhibit a mass of extreme, unmitigated suffering from the details of which humanity revolts. This mass of things has been permitted to exist merely because it was unknown. In the extremity of the disease the maniac is withdrawn from observation. He is placed out of sight and forgotten.

The prospect looks not in upon the secret of his prison—

house. His voice, in his raving, grates not on the ear of the happy. They who have the custody of the wretched being are too prone to forget their duty and his claims upon them for kindness and forbearance. Their sympathy is exhausted and their kindness becomes blunted by familiarity with misery.

They often give up the feelings of the friend, for the apathy of the jailor, and after reducing the madman to the utmost degradation of which human nature is capable, so that he has lost almost the form and appearance of a man, they have in many cases utterly neglected even the appearance of ministering to his wants. There is too, on this subject a common error, that the insane is insensible to suffering, and that the disease is incurable; thus the unfortunate subjects of this madness, as if they had lost their birth right as men—"as if they were fallen stars from the sphere of reason," are consigned over to chains and imprisonment and doomed to wear away a wretched existence until death like a kind angel comes to their relief.

We need something to supply this defect in private sympathy, for it is not true that the insane are insensible to suffering. Hunger, cold, confinement, neglect and the privation of all the accustomed comforts of life affect them as it would affect us. Besides, in many cases of insanity there is a morbidly increased sensibility to physical suffering. They shrink from the least exposure and from the high excitement of the system have not the ordinary power of endurance even of the common evils of life. Excepting in cases of complete idiocy the disease is confined to a part or portion of the mind. Usually, the patient is sane on all subjects but the one hallucination which, to a superficial observer appears to engross every faculty, and completely to enslave the intellect. The fear of some impending calamity—the dread of some unknown danger is frequently the mark of the disease. This must certainly be increased by neglect and physical suffering; and if on all other subjects, the mind judge correctly, no one, from this partial insanity can be insensible to injurious treatment.

The suffering of the insane in their present situation cannot be avoided. A very small proportion of them have friends able and willing to procure a watch by night and by day.

Imprisonment or chains is the only resource for the necessary restraint. Now have they the means to render this confinement tolerable. In many towns there are no proper establishments, and where there are, they are not adapted either for

the comfort or recovery of the insane. The cage, the cell, the garret, the out-building, the gaol and the brick cell of the poor-house are the only alternatives. This state of things is not peculiar to our community. A recent report to the Legislature of Massachusetts observes, that there were more imprisonments for insanity than for debt; and that the insane was visited with a heavier doom than the felon. To quote the language of this report: "they have been condemned as no criminal was ever condemned and have suffered as no criminal ever suffered. The code by which they have been adjudged denounces against them the penalties due only to crime, while it is unmitigated by any of those merciful provisions which in the penal code attempt justice with humanity."

The claims of the insane in this age of benevolence have not been entirely forgotten. The public attention is turned towards them. Recent disclosures render it certain that their situation will be improved and their abject sufferings will be mitigated. The time we trust is not far distant when the cells we have imperfectly described will be unknown. Hospitals for their recovery—retreats for their comfortable support have multiplied around us. They have been established in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania, and probably in many other of the more distant States. They are not mere experiments. Time has tested their value. They open their doors for the relief of these forlorn beings; they empty the cell and the prison; they remove from the faculty the woe-worn maniac whose presence would seem to blight every prospect of happiness; they strike from off his hands and feet the manacle and chain, furnishing a home, where he can be securely kept, and rendered as comfortable as his situation will permit; they return; they remove back to friends, to happiness, to usefulness, hundreds annually who otherwise would have ever afterwards writhed in chains and imprisonment as incurable maniacs.

In these establishments alone can the means of restoration be used with any assurance of success. As the houses are now situated there is reason for the opinion that for them there is no hope but in death. The treatment to which they are so often subjected—treatment which would make the sane mad, gives strength and permanency to a slight attack of the disease. The most violent symptoms, require

ing the closest confinement, are found to yield more easily to medical skill than the gradual and passive form of insanity. Yet the treatment of the former is such from the necessity of the case as to give the fatal spark of reason and doom the victim to a lengthened night of mental darkness. It is this, not the nature of the ailment, which places them out of the hope of a restoration. Even when the kindness of friends is exerted to the utmost—when all is done which humanity can prompt and which wealth can execute, they have not at hand the means of relief nor the professional skill which their case demands. The physician of a town who sees but one or two cases of insanity in a year cannot be a proficient in its treatment. He has not the experience which extensive practice alone can give. He cannot devote to the patient the time and attention which is required. He cannot use the moral means on which he must depend principally for success. The patient must be taken from his accustomed associations. The peculiarities of the disease, and there is every shade and species of insanity, must be known and understood. That part of the mind which is morbidly excited must be soothed and regulated. Indeed, the skill and attention thus required, the means and opportunity on which success depends, cannot be had without the walls of a hospital.

The disease is far from being incurable. It has been stated to the committee by professional gentlemen, and their statements are fully supported by reports from various hospitals, that nine out of ten insane have been restored to reason, when placed judicious treatment in the early stages of the disease. Cases of very long standing have been relieved, and instances often occur of a restoration after years of insanity.—The report of an asylum near Philadelphia gives the following result: admitted in five years, one hundred and fifty-eight patients; discharged in the same time, recovered, fifty-three, improved, seventeen, much improved, twenty-three; without change, nine. In the retreat at York, England, out of forty patients admitted within three months after the first attack, the whole number, forty, were restored to their friends recovered; of those admitted after three and within twelve months, the proportion of cures was as twenty-five to forty-five; but of those whose disease was of more than two years standing, the proportion of cures was only as fourteen to seventy-nine. A report from the Connecticut Retreat shows

the ratio of recovery in the old cases to be twenty-six to the hundred, and out of twenty-four recent cases, twenty-two were recovered. With these facts before the public—with the prospects these reports furnish, shall we withhold the means and permit so many of our fellow-beings, suffering under this awful visitation, to remain like the herds of the field on which the light of reason never dawned?

If it were but to relieve their physical suffering, we need in this State the establishment of an insane hospital. The inmates of the cage and dungeon, from whom all the comforts of life are taken, whose existence is but one continual scene of abject suffering, claim relief from our hands as fellow-beings; this claim cannot, will not be disregarded. They ask from us a retreat from their suffering—a home where they can again be treated as men—where restraint when necessary can be rendered tolerable—where the ever-varying nature of insanity can be treated with discrimination and humanity—where they can in some degree be restored to the dignity of their nature.

Even natives of economy urge upon us the establishment of a hospital for the insane. From an estimate made by his Excellency the Governor, the citizens of this State annually expend the sum of fifteen thousand dollars for the support of lunatics. The committee do not consider it in their province to report a plan for the erection of a hospital, nor have they information to furnish an accurate estimate of the cost of suitable building. They are of opinion however that twenty thousand dollars—a sum but a little more than the present annual expenditure for the maintenance of the insane, would be sufficient for this purpose. The expenses of the clothing and board of the inmates might be borne, by the friends of the insane, and when paupers, by the town in which they have residence.

An annual appropriation from the State would be required for the pay of the superintendents only, and the terms of admission be so low as to enable all the subjects of insanity to avail themselves of the benefits of the asylum. It should, in their opinion be located in the central part of the State, and be under the control and supervision of the Executive. The time appears favorable for the enterprise, as the condition of the treasury will admit of this disbursement without a resort to a tax—a tax, however, for this object, if required would be cheerfully paid by the citizens of the State.

The committee impressed with these considerations unanimously recommend the establishment of an asylum for the insane. Their examination into the condition of these unfortunate beings has resulted in the conviction of the necessity of an immediate attention to the subject. The suffering of those, by the providence of God thus thrown upon the humanity of the public, is truly great, and no other means of relief, in the opinion of the committee is adequate to remove the evil. They believe no legislative act is more loudly called for—that in no other way can the guardians of the public happiness in a greater degree subserve the cause of benevolence than by making the necessary appropriation for this important object.

The subject is highly interesting to every citizen of this State. It comes home to the feelings of every individual of this community. It cannot be known on whom this calamity may fall. No man has a warrant of exemption for himself or those who are necessary to his happiness. No one can say that he shall escape, or that there is a *shield held over his household* that the "troubled spirit" may not enter there. The decrees of Providence are inscrutable. The happy and prosperous of this year are often the sick and distressed of the next. If insanity sometimes comes as the curse of evil deeds—to chastise the wicked, it spares not the virtuous and the pure; if at times it be the consequence of unrestrained passions, or the excessive indulgence of appetite, it often arises from the looseness of those very feelings, and the strength of those very affections which, when in subjection to reason, so highly adorn and so strikingly elevate the human character.

Which, with the accompanying resolution, is respectfully submitted.

S. E. OGDEN,

for the Committee.

Resolved. That it is expedient that an Asylum for the Insane be established.



LECTURE

DELIVERED BY

DR. WILLIAM PERRY,

OF EXETER, JUNE SESSION, 1834,

IN THE

REPRESENTATIVES' HALL,

AT CONCORD, N. H.,

*on Insanity, the condition of the
Insane, and the necessity
of an Asylum.*

CONCORD, N. H.

PRINTED BY THE ARTIFIN PRESS.

1836.

LECTURE

BY DR. WILLIAM PERRY, OF EXETER, N. H.

If an apology be required of me, for again appearing before you to plead in behalf of that portion of our community which is subjected to direct of all human ills, the deranged manifestation of the mind, I shall refer you to the number, to the condition and necessary sufferings of the insane in our State, also to their claims on our sympathy, as members of the same great family, and to their rights as consequence of their membership of the same body politic with ourselves.

It is not my intention or wish to give you a highly drawn picture of the character of the insane, or to entertain you with a fictitious representation of their sufferings; I shall have accomplished my design if I am able to present you with a plain common-sense view of the situation, and in so doing, to contribute in any degree to a judicious disposal of their claim on the State, which you as the enlightened and philanthropic agents of the people, are, at the present time not only called on to examine but to decide.

I am aware that the question may here be asked with much propriety, how it has happened, that we have lived till now, and heard so little, and perhaps almost nothing, of the frequent occurrence of insanity, or of the sufferings which attend it? the answer to this question is obtained by referring to several considerations. The period is not far gone by in which it was believed that mania or madness was a visitation from the

Almightily in consequence of sin, or was the work of malignant spirits, or had its origin from the influence of his Satan-like Majesty himself. It was also known to be, in a considerable degree a hereditary disease. These opinions had great influence over the minds of the people. They considered it as a blot or mark of degradation on their family constitution. Their deranged members were speedily removed from public observation, and as carefully avoided as were the lepers of the ancient Jews. How much we witness at the present day, of the influence of these former opinions, I shall not undertake to say. There are, however, many reasons for thinking that it has not wholly passed away.

Another consideration is, that insanity as a disease, is not generally understood. It was for a long period regarded as almost an irreducible complaint. Favourable anticipations hardly had existence in the minds of these friends. All interest in their restoration, therefore, soon passed away. The attendance of a physician was considered useless. Parental attendance as there was expense and tressure. Consequently, therefore, was almost studied in the plans devised for taking care of them.

This generally resulted in confinement to a strong room, or to the floor by a chain. In this situation the friends themselves are unable to make known their sufferings, or their deplorable condition, and their friends have little inclination to do so. The necessary effect of all this is to keep the public in great ignorance in regard to the true condition of that portion of the community. And as part of the result of these considerations, I will respectfully request you to ask yourselves, how many there are in your respective towns who are incapable of taking care of themselves, and unto the time I will take you to call them to your recollections.

In regard to the number of the insane, a great error exists, and arises in an inconsiderable degree from a misapprehension of the manifestation of the disease and from the misapprehension, or I might say confusion of names which have been employed in describing it. Have you not witnessed among your friends and acquaintances individuals who have lost all interest in objects which have a direct bearing on their happiness, and to which they had been strongly attached? And have you not in vain urged them to withdraw from their melancholy and return to their usual employ-

sient and have you not proved them with arguments which they could neither parry nor resist without the least effort? Have you not seen aged people whose conduct had corresponded with their years, suddenly start up and engage in new enterprise, which of necessity could be only appropriate for the young?—Such people are said to be very inconsistent, but this expression is very far from truly representing the case. Have there not been within the sphere of your knowledge, frequent instances of sudden engagedness or zeal for unimportant forms of religion, politics and business, when it was obvious that they were not controlled by the same good understanding, which had previously governed their conduct? Have you not seen individuals pursuing a mere phantasm for the purpose of distinguishing themselves, as they think, by the superiority of their attainments, either in learning, in wealth or in worldly dignity, against whom you would as valiantly oppose every species of argument, as you would in contending with the rising billows of the mighty deep? I do not mean to be understood to say that *all* the cases, which would come under the above description, any more than every eccentricity of judgment which we notice in the community, or every caprice which is exhibited in society, or every instance where common sense yields to the solicitations of weak or angry passions, are decided cases of insanity.

Far otherwise in my opinion is the truth. But I do say, that whenever such conduct is the natural and regular result of diseased state of the bodily organs, which cannot be controlled by the exercise of the judgment, we have the sure and unopposed evidence of the existence of the disease itself. To the different forms in which the disease thus manifests itself, different names were formerly and still continue to be given, to the exclusion of the one which if recognized and employed, would be the means of throwing light on the mode of treating it, and also of calling forth a different train of sympathetic feeling toward the unfortunate subjects of it. If the number of actually insane persons of the above description, be added to that of those who are generally admitted to be so, it would swell the sum to an almost terrific extent.

The ratio of actually insane persons would then be found to be not less than one for every 200 of the inhabitants of

our State. Indeed this ratio is 30 per cent., short of that which was found to be true in the State of Connecticut, and not far from the same with that which was reported to the Legislature of the State of New York. This will give about 800 for our State. These are not, however, to be considered as candidates for a public institution; far from it. The greater portion, from the nature and tenderness of their hallucination, require simply kindness and indulgence in relation to it. But in all other respects they are capable of managing for themselves. But out of this great number, there is a portion whose situation is very different. They can neither take care of themselves, nor will they willingly submit to the directions of others.

Their whole character is changed. Their feelings and intellectual powers are perverted. They suffer the most distressing anxieties, fancy themselves the subjects of human persecution, or the objects of divine vengeance. The devoted sensualist is changed into the drunkard and abandoned felon. The mild and timid engage in acts, which are in accordance only with the violent and dissipated. Indeed, as has been well observed, the change is so great, that nothing but the figure of the human species remains. And when we reflect that each one of us is alike exposed to it, that no situation is exempt from it, that the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the master and the servant, are equally vulnerable to the arrows from its quiver, an interest gathers around the subject, which nothing can remove, till we have a guarantee that we shall receive, when incapable of acting for ourselves, such a course of treatment as science, authorities, decency requires, and benevolence approves.

The sufferings connected with insanity, are unquestionably much greater than is generally supposed. They arise from apprehensions of present or impending evil, from an inability to control persons and events so as to make them subservient to their own moral designs, and often from the very disease which occasions the hallucination itself. It is an error to suppose that the insane are pain feeling, because they have not the power of expressing it in the manner which the intelligent do. Indeed we have no more right to expect that the insane will understand the nature and the extent of what

troubles them, and give a correct and distinct account of it, then we have that they will understand a law of the State and conform their conduct to it.

They, no doubt, will manifest their sufferings by action, which correspond with the morbid state of their minds, whatever that may be. If all the faculties of the mind were involved in every case of insanity, the origin of the sufferings, as thus stated, would be a full representation of the truth. But this is very seldom the case, if ever. Insanity is almost universally a partial disease. It often effects only one of the faculties, and generally not more than two or three.—Hence the crazy man generally exhibits a mixture of truth and delusion. From this view of the subject, the poignancy of their sufferings we may fairly infer, is aggravated beyond what can well be imagined. The insane appear to be conscious that all, respecting themselves, is not right, but are unable to detect the error.—Hence they cannot perceive the reason why those around them cannot be convinced of the importance and feasibility of their visionary schemes.

The mortification and vexation which are thus produced are often almost unbounded. I knew a brother physician, who a few years ago, during some disturbance in Paris, proposed the raising a corps of troops to send out to quell it. He had his plans for the execution of this important enterprise, fully prepared and drawn out on paper. He wrote letters to different individuals, whom he thought ought to be interested in so important and benevolent an undertaking. But when he found that he could not engage others, or accomplish any of his designs, ebullitions of his passions could only find vent in curses, not only on all creation but on Creator himself.

The fancies or hallucinations of the insane, are as real and important to them, in the estimation of the former, and as imperious as are the obligations of the latter. Hence that pertinacity which is one of the distinctive marks of insanity, is synonymous with conviction, and grows out of a firm belief of the reality of what is in fact only delusion. In this view of the subject, what is there, in the apprehension of the insane man, to mitigate his sufferings, who actually believes himself to be a bankrupt, and sees in every person who approaches his dwelling, an officer to execute

the demands of the law, which the sane man does not possess, who is conscious that he is reduced to this unpleasant condition. How does the situation of the religious maniac whose tender conscience is constantly brooding over the loss of all hope in divine mercy, differ from that of the sane person who by actual transgression is reduced to the brink of everlasting despair? which of you would choose the life of the hypothetical man, who believes his body to be a mere vessel, around which all the diseases incident to humanity are gathered, and are executing their work of destruction, in preference to that of the man who is actually the subject of disease but whose powers and faculties of mind are sound, by which he is enabled to make such arrangements as he judges expedient, both for time and eternity? Every neglect or contempt which is shown toward the laceration of the insane, are in their estimation shown against the truth; and all personal opposition or restraint is viewed in no other light than madman persecution.

But the sufferings are not, as we thus perceive, to be measured by a scale graduated to the manifestations of their laceration, but are to be inferred, as in persons in health, from their inability to accomplish their wishes, from the opposition they experience, from the insults they receive, and from all restraints necessarily imposed on them. My intelligent audience will, I trust, perceive from what has been stated, that these latter remarks will require a modified application to particular cases, for the same phreny which has subjugated the mind, may convert a solitary cell into a magnificent palace, and those persons who are set as a watch to prevent injury, into mental screams. I know that it is in harmony with the feelings of the savage of our wilderness, who, in his obscurity, is taught to believe that all sympathy for suffering humanity, is but effeminate weakness and is accursed with the curse of the Turk, who is made to believe that an uncontrollable fatality attends every circumstance bearing on the condition of man.

I say I know it is consistent for those people to live regardless of human suffering, and to have their sympathies reflect in the exhibitions of mental anguish. But for us, for the people of New Hampshire, it is not so. We might as well undertake to dispossess ourselves of the powers and faculties of our nature, as to understand and witness the deplorable con-

sition and sufferings of the insane without having the emotions of pity strongly excited, and an inquiry involuntarily raised, what can be done for their benefit.

But however grateful to the feelings it may be, to relieve the ills of life, it is not the principal ground on which I would urge the claims of the insane on the Legislature. I would place it on the rights of the insane themselves, and on the corresponding obligation of the people to meet them—by providing suitable accommodations for them. At the time when the constitution of this State was formed, individuals were crazy as well as now, but no consistent and definite knowledge existed in relation to them. It was likely that a thought ever passed the mind of any of the members of the convention who formed the constitution, that there existed the least necessity or propriety for making any provision for them.

We may therefore not expect to find in the letter of the constitution any reference to such an object. It is to the spirit of it only that we are to look for support in the present case. In reference to this view of the subject, I would ask, what was the object or design of the compact, but for the protection and benefit of the people as a whole, and each individual in particular. The pledge on the part of the whole, is to protect and support each individual in all his rights, as a member of the compact. In accordance with this, the person, the character and the property, of each individual, is as carefully guarded by statutes, as human sagacity could devise. And by statute, also, every unnecessary or malicious attack on either, is made a punishable offence. But all these regulations are adapted to persons in the possession of the regular and natural powers of the mind.

No regulation or prohibition can, for a moment, be supposed to be obligatory on deranged individuals, and therefore though they may, by acts, be transgressors of the laws, they are not amenable to them. And for similar reasons, if they are the subjects of insult or injury, they are incapable of defending themselves or of prosecuting, and therefore only have, in common with the brute, to bear their suffering alone and forgotten. Though some precautionary measures have been adopted by the Legislature, and though it be a consistent regulation of the judges of our courts, that they will not try an

offence committed by an insane person, yet I will contend that the provisions fall very far short of the requirements of the subject. They meet on the claims of the unfortunate sufferers. They come not up to the light which is now shed on the nature and effects of insanity. The insane stand not on an equal chance with the rest of the community, either for personal protection, or for supply of their corporal wants.

This results not from any exceptions in the general provisions, which are made to operate against the insane, but from the peculiar situation in which they necessarily stand. All the epithets which have been employed to designate this class of people, show that they are and have at all periods been considered as distinct, as unalike, as lying without the pale of social intercourse and as incapable of partaking or of communicating happiness. From a misapprehension that this incapacity for enjoyment was universal, and from a false notion that their disease was irremediable, provision either for comfort or restoration, with three or four exceptions, can hardly be said to have been made in any part of the world, till the nineteenth century. There were to be care piteous houses where the insane were kept, to which they were often sent for the purpose of freeing their friends from the insupportable burden of continually watching them.

In many of these, they were no doubt, treated what was then thought kindly, being compelled to work out their own cure in working for their employer, enforced by an occasional application of the whip to secure obedience and to arouse their dormant powers by day, and of a chain to rule their maniacal ravings by night. This is not an untrue representation of the case. And if such treatment of the insane does not exist in this State at the present moment; it is not because we as a people have done anything to alter or mitigate it, but because the rays of science which first originated from intellectual vibration by the impulse of philanthropy, have found their way among our granite hills. And now, in the place of what may be termed a modified evil, we want a positive good. We need a place, where not only their sufferings shall be mitigated, but where every known means of restoration can be promptly and efficiently applied. We want it too, within the

reach of every inhabitant of the State, and open on such conditions that every proper candidate can at once avail himself of its advantages.

This we ought to have. It is an object in which every person has an interest, and is therefore peculiarly a State concern, an object of legislative action. There can be but one valid objection raised against it, that is, the cost of such an establishment. This would in all probability not vary much from \$20,000. This to be sure is a large sum of money by itself.

But we all know that there is no income from money kept in the pocket. It is only when well-vested that we feel its good effect. Now it is a well known fact, that the reception and cure of the insane in private houses, have given a handsome income to the enterprising undertakers, indeed this has been so large, as in many instances to occasion much abuse. So confident am I that an institution of the kind might be made profitable, that were I capable and had I the ability I would take the whole responsibility on myself in preference to engaging in any speculation which to my knowledge is offered within the bounds of the State. It in fact involves the principle of an insurance company. While the State holds the stock every inhabitant has a policy of insurance. That this is not all assertion, let us look at both sides of the case. In the first place the sum of \$20,000 is not a great burden, for the people at any time to raise, being only ten cents apiece, on the supposition that our population is 200,000 which I presume is not far from the fact. Now what person, what head of a family is there that would not pay triple this sum, to be insured for five years, that in case of necessity he might have the privilege of availing himself of the advantages of such an institution. But as an offset to this expenditure let us look at some of its advantages. I shall not pretend to perfect accuracy in respect to all these, believing that there are numbers disposed and more capable than we to do it. But still I trust my statements will not essentially vary from the truth.

Let us, in the first place, take into consideration the annual expenses of the inhabitants of the State, necessarily incurred by the present mode of taking charge of the insane. These are paid at one time by one set of individuals and by another

set another time. But I shall consider them so paid by the State. I estimate the number of persons incapable of taking care of themselves by reason of insanity at 200. Of this number I consider 75 as in the acute stage of mania. In this situation they will require one or more persons to protect them from injuring themselves or others. They will require also the attendance of a physician. All this attendance, in addition to their board, I shall call \$4 per week for each, (and who would engage to do it for \$5.) Besides this there is much necessary interruption in family business, and the loss of such time, which Franklin in his day said was money.

The aggregate of expense for a year on this calculation for the 75 is \$15,000. And as there is a continual succession of cases of this description, we cannot reasonably estimate the yearly expenditures at a less sum for this class. Of the 125 remaining patients, I shall estimate the expense of 25 at \$2.50 per week, 25 at \$1.00, and the remaining 75 at \$1.00, making the whole annual sum \$24,750. Clothing and destruction of property I do not take into consideration, for they are common to both sides of the calculation. From this number of 200 insane persons I consider only 125 included in the first three divisions, as candidates for a hospital. The present annual charge for these on the above estimation is \$20,000. In a well-regulated institution, their charges would consist, of board, with as simple and plain food as is best adapted to their disorder. I shall say \$1.25 cents per week, a physician, who would also be superintendent, \$1,250, and an attendant for every ten patients, \$2.00, each, making together a sum of \$11,875, which is \$8,925 less than what is now expended. Its claims, then, are urged on the attention of the Legislature, by considerations of economy. In addition to those already stated, even if I am not correct in my estimate by fifteen or twenty per cent.

You will allow me to refer to another consideration, which is of great importance, and that is the vastly increased probability of restoration. Hence, next to a prison, it found by experience to be the most unlikely situation for a recovery is which an insane person can be placed. It is not necessary at the present time to enter into the full reason of this fact; but I may be permitted to observe that the solitary intercourse between man and man is pre-

dictated on their possessing the right exercise of their intellectual powers. On a similar principle are made all family regulations, which it is impossible so to modify as to adapt to the hallucinations of a deranged member, and consequently little can be expected while in this situation from the very best prescriptions. And I would further observe, that although insanity is a disease of frequent occurrence, yet the cases which are seen in private practice are not sufficiently numerous, to afford such opportunities for observing and comparing the symptoms which it exhibits, as to enable the private practitioner to meet them with that promptness and decision which the nature and urgency of the case demands.

The consequence of all which is, that little prospect of restoration attends the best directed efforts, while the patients remain with their friends and among familiar objects. But if we will give ourselves the trouble to examine the reports of the well-regulated Insane Hospitals, we shall be cheered with a very different aspect of the case. But, that we may know what to expect, it will be necessary to refer for a moment to the origin of the disease. Insanity is either the direct effect of some disease of the brain, or of a disordered function of this organ, produced by a disturbed action in the nervous system. It may, therefore, depend on causes which cannot be removed. All such cases of insanity are consequently irremediable. Of this class are all such as arise from permanent injuries, and from old age where some portion of the brain is decayed.

To this class we must add cases of long standing, from whatever cause they may have originated, though to these but there is an occasional exception.

In every institution there is a collection of these cases which are termed incurable. Some institutions are designed for the curable cases only. To these none are admitted who are not supposed capable of being benefited, and when it is ascertained from experiment that they cannot be relieved, they are removed. Others are founded not only for the benefit of those who are susceptible of cure, but for the accommodation of every description of cases. In reference to this last we are to look to the reports made by different institutions.

If we make an average of the proportion of cures in those institutions where both classes of patients are received, we shall find the ratio not to vary much from that of thirty-five to one hundred admissions. If we take the proportion from those where only the curable cases are admitted, we shall find that about two-thirds of the number who are admitted are restored to health. If again we notice the success which attends the treatment of those of the latter class who are received within the first three months from the date of their disease, we shall be almost astonished to find at least ninety in the hundred restored, while only forty-five in the hundred of those who are admitted between three and six months from the same period. This were it well supported, might with an appearance of reason, be doubted. This is a point in the subject under consideration of great importance. It is not possible for the people of this State to avail themselves under existing circumstances, of the advantages which these facts bring to light.

There is still another view of the subject, whence we may confidently anticipate benefit to the people. If virtue availed a nation, so does science strengthen it. We cannot have such an institution among us without feeling its influence in the light it will shed on the various exhibitions of human character. The medical profession would however be the most directly assisted by it.

After looking at the subject in all its relations, though my own judgment may sustain me in an inference in favor of a State Insane Hospital, both on the ground of expediency and necessity, yet I am aware that you will, and perhaps with much propriety, consider this of very little if of any consequence. I shall therefore to sustain myself, refer to the practice of the enlightened parts of the world.

The first and only Insane Hospital for over two hundred years of which I have any knowledge, was the Bethlehem or Bellarm in the city of London, which was instituted in 1547. It had been a priory of the church, but after it was converted to its present use, at different periods underwent changes, which were made by contributions of the citizens. In 1754 another, Saint Luke's Hospital in the same city was built. This is a very large establishment

and was erected also by contribution from the citizens. The admissions to it already amount to 25,000. These were the only ones till 1795, when another was built in Lancaster, and the year after the celebrated Retreat at York was commenced by the Society of Friends, and after great effort was finished. The mild course of treatment adopted at this institution, and the great success which attended it, were the occasion of a great change in the general course adopted for the managing of the insane, which to this day is increasing, and I trust will continue to do so, till the whole earth feels its benign influence.

Since that period, Hospitals for the insane have multiplied to a great extent. There are not less than forty in the kingdom of Great Britain. They are established in France, Germany, Italy, and in fact in every enlightened country on the continent. In the United States we can number twelve in actual operation—Here allow me to ask, are not the sufferings of the insane in the State of New Hampshire as great as they are in other places? and do they not in consequence stand in need of sympathy or protection, and of the means of recovery as much as those of the same class in other places? And are not the blighted hopes of relations and friends as grievous, are they not as much to be regarded in the deliberation of the conservators of this State, as those are of that people whose providence has placed under other government. Are not the feelings which pervade the breasts of the people of the granite State as sympathetic, as philanthropic, and will they not urge forward a benevolent enterprise as zealously, especially where economy is involved in the design, as the people of any other State? I am confident they will. Let the facts be known and they will take their stand, they will shoulder the load, and march manfully forward.

There is a prevalent error, which I deem sufficiently important to notice in this place. Many people have an idea that every man who has an M. D. attached to his name or the significant cognomen of doctor prefixed to it, is a person capable of administering to a "mind disease." But I do my brethren no injustice, when I say that such an impression is without foundation. The subject of diseases of the mind, cannot be said to belong to the preparatory studies of a physician any more than they do to those of law or divinity. It is

only when the observations of the intellect are made a particular study, that we can fairly expect them to be understood and met.

Any plan of such an institution would at the present time be premature, but a few remarks on the principles which are laid in them in the construction of Insane Hospitals, will not, it is believed, be inappropriate. I have stated that the regulations of families and of society were predicated on the preservation of the natural and regular powers of the mind. On the contrary, the form and arrangements of an Insane-Hospital are designed to meet the wants, and regulate the conduct, of those whose mental faculties are perverted.

The accomplishment of this design, has been the aim in the construction of every building for that object. Liberty in connection with safety, and employment in the form of diversion or amusement, are the prominent points, which are laid in view. As those to be accommodated include both sexes, and the disease in different individuals, will exhibit very different forms, it is obvious that there must be in their daily intercourse, a sort of classification. There must then, be a division in the building and yards to accommodate the two sexes; and subdivisions to meet the different degrees of violence and the degrees of complaints. Each patient has a separate room for lodging, and each class or division have a day room where they meet, read, converse, engage in games, in the presence of their attendants, or walk in the yard as they please. If any one be cross, noisy, or dangerous, he is, for the time confined to his room. Thus violence is restrained, the social feelings cultivated, and all the happiness which they are able to enjoy, secured to them.

Now I presume there is not an individual, who has done us the honor to listen to my very imperfect representation of the condition and claims of the insane, who is not, and I may say, was not ready to admit that the object is a laudable, no even a good one, if we had the means to accomplish it. I shall not repeat what I have already said in regard to the ability of the State, or disposition of the people. The early Hospitals were so to state the effect of private manumission, and I would by no means discourage any person who might be disposed to lend a hand to such an object in this State. Neither would I object to a town or county taking

the responsibility upon itself. But at the same time I can see no more propriety in asking or expecting an offer in the present case, than for one to meet any other expense for which the State is liable.

In my own apprehension, it is peculiarly a State concern, both to provide the means, and to exercise the whole control over it, that every indigent may have an equal right to its benefits. I shall take the liberty here to state, that I have no interest in the success of such an institution, but what is common to all my fellow citizens. I want none of its honors or emoluments, and I hope and pray that I may never have occasion to avail myself of the blessings, it is designed to afford. My interest in it, arises from a strong conviction of its importance; and I cannot do justice to my own judgment, without using the limited powers I may possess, to help forward an enterprise which in my apprehension, is based on the true principles of human wisdom.

I would then in behalf of the unfortunate insane present their claim to the consideration of the Legislature, and appeal earnestly and perseveringly for the bestowment of those privileges, and advantages, to which as kindred beings, they are entitled. I would plead too, with an eloquence, if I were able, that could not be resisted, that a retreat might be secured to them, where they might receive all the happiness and all the assistance which art and science are able to bestow. I would ask also, for such arrangements, that a ready admission might be had to it, while the prospects of recovery are the most promising.

APPENDIX.

Extract from a report made by Charles H. Peabody to the House of Representatives, June session, 1834, for the Committee on so much of the Governor's Message as related to the Insane.

In regard to the expense, your committee are of opinion that apart from the claims of suffering humanity, the endowment of a Hospital would in the end prove by far the most economical method of supporting the insane in this State. The whole cost erecting, furnishing and fully preparing a Hospital, suitable for the reception of 120 patients, on the plan of the Worcester Asylum, the best constructed of any within our knowledge, would not in our opinion exceed \$25,000.

The Hospital at Worcester, Mass. consists of a centre building and wings. The centre building is 76 feet in length, 41 feet wide, and four stories in height. The wings are each 90 feet long in front, and 100 in the rear, 36 feet wide, and 5 stories high. They are in the same line, extending to the right and left from the opposite ends of the centre building. The front of the centre building projects 22 feet forward of the front of the wings. The wings, being 36 feet wide, half their width, or 18 feet joins upon the centre building; the other half falls in its rear. This arrangement connects the centre with the wings, so far as to allow a free communication between them by means of stairways and thoroughfares and at the same time, so far disconnects them, that the inside ends of the long halls in the wings (hereafter mentioned) falling in the rear of the centre, open into the external air and thus as it regards ventilation, the

advantages of separate buildings are secured to the wings.

The cellar extends under the whole edifice. An excavation to the depth of three or four feet was necessary in order to lay the foundation; and by excavating a little deeper than was indispensable for that purpose, a great amount of room is obtained, and many obvious advantages are secured.

The basement story of the centre building is designed for store rooms, a kitchen, laundry, &c. The front part of the second story, contains four rooms of convenient size, which with the chambers immediately over them and the small sleeping apartments into which the fourth story is divided, are intended for a Superintendent and his family, a steward, and the domestics and laborers necessarily employed in and about so extensive an establishment. As this portion of the Hospital is to be used in the same way as any ordinary dwelling house, it is according to the plan to be finished in a similar manner. The rest of the 1st, 2d, and 3d stories of the centre buildings is designed for the dining and day rooms of the inmates.

The wings are, in each story, divided in the centre by a long hall or aisle, 12 feet in width, and extending from end to end. In consequence of the wings' falling half their width, as before mentioned, at the rear of the centre building, these halls communicate, at both ends, with the external air and thus the means of a most thorough ventilation are secured. Whoever has visited any public establishment, where the entire end of a wing, is met and closed in by the side of the main building, cannot have failed to perceive the unpleasantness of the atmosphere at that place, compared with it at the outer end, where free admission has been given to the pure air. On each side of these halls are situated the apartments designed for the inmates. They are 8 feet by 10 and are all provided with permanent seat secured in the wall. Each apartment has a large window with an upper sash of cast iron, and a lower sash of wood, both of which are glazed. Immediately without the wooden sash is a false sash of cast iron, corresponding with the wooden in appearance and dimensions. This is set firmly into the sides of the window frame, a narrow space being left at the bottom for water to pass off and save the frame from decay. When the wooden sash is raised, the false iron one presents a barrier against escape or injury from leaping out through

the window. It is said, that a man however *fervently* mad, or impatient of confinement he may be, will rarely attempt to break through a window until he has first tried unsuccessfully to raise it. If it be so, this simple contrivance will afford effectual security both to property and person, without inflicting upon the patient any injurious restraint. Each of these apartments is provided with two air flues, one for heated, the other for air. It is intended to warm the wings by furnaces placed in the cellar. The hot air is to be conducted from the furnaces through flues in the hall's walls, and to be discharged through apertures into the halls. By these means, the air in the halls may be raised throughout to any desirable temperature. Over the door of each apartment, there is a small aperture, through which the heated air in the halls will pass into the rooms and thence will be carried off into the attic by means of the hot air flue of the room. The aperture of this flue is at the bottom of the room, and is to be kept open only in winter. The aperture of the other flue is at the top of the room and is to be kept open in the summer, so that, as the air is made light by heat, it will rise and pass off through this channel, and the cool air from without will rush in to supply its place.

All these flues open into the attic, which is ventilated by sky-lights in the roof, and large fan windows at the ends. At the end of the wings, where they join on and are connected with the rear part of the centre building, the halls open into the dining and day rooms, before mentioned, in the centre building. These rooms are fitted up with the same means of strength and security as are provided for the apartments in the wings, and, being directly connected with the halls, are to be warmed from them. The dining-rooms, occupying the rear of the 1st, 2d, and 3d stories of the centre building are of course situated immediately over a portion of the kitchen. Adjoining these rooms a perpendicular space is left open from the kitchen to the third story, through which, by means of an apparatus similar to a windlass, and called a dumb waiter, the food can be raised from the kitchen and distributed to one hundred and twenty persons in six different divisions without inconvenience. Each story in the wings is provided with a bathing room, washing room, &c. The large windows at each end of the hall, are protected by an open frame work of iron. Each hall has a separate stair-way, lead-

ing into an outer yard, so that each story in each wing is as entirely disconnected from all the others, as if it were a separate building. This allows that separation and classification of the patients, on which all treatises upon the means of restoring the insane, so strenuously insist.

The roof of the Hospital is covered with slate. Besides the security, which this material furnishes against fire, and other covering, it was believed, would seem incongruous with the public character of the building, its solidity, and expected durability. To prevent unhealthy moisture from being deposited upon the inside walls of the edifice, an interval or open space is left between the external and internal courses of bricks—the courses being strongly fastened together by tiles—so that a free circulation of air through all the exterior walls, from the underpinning to the attic, will effectually obviate that almost universal inconvenience of brick habitation."

The commissioners to erect a Hospital at Worcester state in their report that the preparation of the grounds, the excavation and stoning of the cellar, the construction of a road by which an easy access is gained to the elevated side of the building, requiring the removal of about 8000 cubic feet of gravel, raising the exterior wall of the edifice, which is 256 feet in length, with partition walls of brick, carried up from the foundation, and dividing it into more than 120 apartments, the roof of slate; the very expensive windows; with all the carpenters' labor, and materials so far as the same have been necessary in the progress of the work; have been accomplished at an expense of something less than \$24,000.

Your Committee, aided by persons acquainted with building, have made an estimate of the expense of erecting and furnishing an Asylum in this State, on the plan of that at Worcester, with the following result. The calculation is made for walls of brick, 20 inches thick in the lower story, diminishing 1 inch in each ascending story, and cellar wall of stone 2 feet thick.

Expense of excavating and stoning cellar under the whole building, including underpinning stone and floor steps.			\$2,000
Brick work,	360 m. at 85		8,240
Timber,	100 m. at 7	85	1,000
Boards,	100 m. at 5		
Shingles,	100 m. at 85		

Doors and windows,	1,100
Nails, door hinges, and trimmings,	250
Plastering, 100 yds.,	600
Carpenters' and joiners' work,	2,500
Paints and colors,	1,000
240 Cast iron casements,	\$8 1,920
Painting,	350

\$12,820

The above estimate may not be correct in every particular, but mechanics, who have seen the Asylum at Worcester, say such an one may be built in this State for \$20,000 or less, with the exception of shingling the roof.

The furniture in each room, consisting of hair mattress and bedstead with board bottom, bedding, &c. will cost \$2.00, which, for 120 rooms will make

81,680

Add building, 19,880

And the whole expense of erecting and furnishing is \$20,940

Allowing, then, the whole expense of erecting and furnishing the establishment to be \$25,000, there would remain \$4,060 to be expended in adorning the grounds, providing the necessary out buildings, fencing out separate yards and for other purposes.

As regards the expense of supporting 120 patients at the Hospital, it is believed it would not much exceed \$75 each per annum, exclusive of clothing, and our conclusion is thus arrived at:

Salary of Physician and Superintendent,	\$1,000
Wages of 8 male attendants,	200
" of 2 female attendants,	450
" of Steward and Matron, laborers, cooks and other domestics,	1,000
Provisions, groceries and medicines	5,000
Fuel and lights,	800

Making in the whole, \$9,450

or \$78.25 to each of 120 patients.

REPORT
MADE TO THE
LEGISLATURE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
ON THE SUBJECT OF
THE INSANE.

(JUNE SESSION, 1856.)

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATURE.

SECOND EDITION

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1856.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JUNE 10, 1886.

The Committee to whom was referred so much of the Governor's message as relates to income persons in this State, the memorials and petitions praying for the establishment of an Insane Asylum, and the statistical returns from the towns of the number and condition of the insane,—submit the following Report.

REPORT:

Many facts have come to the knowledge of this Committee evincing the general and profound interest at present existing in regard to this subject. The petitions before them comprise the names of over 2,000 individuals in nineteen towns:—public meetings, expressing an almost unanimous voice, have been held in many of our largest and most important towns to take the expression of public sentiment on this topic; the voice of the press, representing as it does the views of every party in politics, every sect in religion, indeed forming in its extent almost the echo of individual opinion, has with perhaps a solitary exception, united in favor of legislative action in the case of the insane. In the various returns made at three different years and from several hundred individuals in all persons and classes, with a single dissentient voice, wherever an opinion has been suggested, it has been that breathing the warmest feeling that no farther delay should be made, in taking measures for relieving this class of our fellow-citizens. Thus impressed with the importance which the matter committed to them obtains in the eye of our constituents, we have endeavored to analyze and digest the facts which have been put in our possession, and to record such results as the United thus and immense mass of documents in which the facts are contained, will permit. In the returns made from the various towns, principally during the present year, referring in some instances to those of

the last session, and in a very few cases to those of 1852 when the more recent returns have not been received, they find the following results:

The number of towns returned having insane is,	141
Number of inhabitants in 141 towns returned,	173,773
Having no insane,	20
Number of inhabitants in 20 towns having no insane,	63,736
Number of insane paupers supported entirely at a public charge,	152
Number not paupers,	140
Whole number of insane returned,	312
Whole number of inhabitants in all the towns returned is,	181,220
Number returned as confined, including all in cages, jails, close rooms, chains, handcuffs &c. &c. a few of which number are reported as "lately confined" "sometimes confined" &c.	81
The average period which the insanity has existed in the individuals as far as reported, viz. in 275 individuals and comprising periods from 2 weeks to 60 years; is about	13½ years

The Committee feel that neither the time nor the occasion require them to allude to instances of the aggravated and almost incredible suffering of the insane poor, which have come to their knowledge; they are convinced that this legislature requires no high wrought pictures of the various gradations of intense misery to which the pauper lunatic is subjected, extending from his incarceration in the cold, narrow, sunless, fireless cell or the almshouse, to the scarcely more humane disposal of him by "selling at auction" as it is called, by which he falls into the tender mercies of the most avaricious and worthless of society, who, alone, could be excited by cupidity to such a revolting charge. Suffice it to say on this point that your Committee are satisfied, that the horrors of the present condition of the insane poor in New-Hampshire are far from having been exaggerated. They have found that public officers and citizens of towns have naturally been unwilling, that the extent and particulars of what many of them doubtless sincerely believe a necessary, or at least an unavoidable severity, should be disclosed to the public; those having the charge of insane friends have been found often unwilling even to refer to the

miseries, still less to speak of the treatment and condition which they conscientiously think unavoidable in their circumstances, for they might naturally, may most certainly expect to be persecuted as inhuman barbarians, by those who could not judge by experience of the dreadful necessities of a family having a frantic inmate.

In view of this immense mass of unmitigated, undiluted misery, the question will spontaneously occur what can be done for its alleviation and prevention?

To this interrogation the Committee rejoice that it is in their power to present an answer in facts as decisive as they irrefragable; as gratifying as the evil is dreadful. They will take it as a principle universally admitted by all who have examined this subject, exemplified in the practice of all civilized nations, that the only hope of restoring the insane to soundness of mind exists in the agency of institutions in which they can be separated from the community, and be subjected to a course of medical and moral management well understood, very peculiar and wonderfully successful. They regard this principle of the hopelessness of the recovery of the insane under the ordinary mode of treating other bodily diseases, as established from the first history of the healing art, and the opinions of those best qualified to judge, will sustain them in the assertion, that notwithstanding all the advances and improvements of medical science, the success of the physician under common circumstances in "administering to the mind diseased," is no greater at the present day than it was in the days of Hippocrates or Galen. This principle was too much overlooked in practice till near the end of the last century, since which time every civilized nation of Europe in its public authorities has turned its attention towards proper receptacles for the insane and have succeeded according to wealth, wants or genius of each people. In the United States within the last 20 years the subject has been brought before the public so successfully, that nearly one half the States of the confederation have taken measures to provide for their necessities in this respect.

The facts as to the duration of insanity in individuals just reported, speak volumes as to its intractability under common treatment. The average period proves to be between 15 and 21 years, not in the comparison of the reports made in 1842 and 1843 comprising a period of four years, have there been found more than a very rare occasional instance of amendment. It

insanity a disease limiting itself in violence or duration? does it arrive like any of the self-limited maladies, like fevers or consumptions, at a crisis, working out its own cure, or terminating its own existence by destroying the life of the individual? So far from this is it, that the personal observation of almost every man will fail to recall an instance of spontaneous remission of well marked lunacy. So far from this is it, that the natural tendency is to become more exasperated, more disgusting, more unmanageable. We shall presently have occasion to show how immensely the possibility of recovery diminishes every year that the insanity continues unrelieved. The insane too are proverbially long lived, their disease does not tend towards death; and this fact taken in conjunction with certain peculiar and yearly augmenting moral causes of insanity, must convince us that the evils are increasing; that the number of victims will be augmented faster in proportion, than the increase of our population.

There are three points of view in which the establishment of an Insane Asylum should be regarded:—

1. As a curative institution, restoring those intrusted to its charge to the exercise of reason and to their duties in society.
2. The influence of such an institution in diminishing the amount of public suffering, both in alleviating the condition of the insane inmates who may be beyond the reach of successful medication, and removing the immense weight of anxiety and distress and danger of their connections and relatives.
3. As a place of custody for those endangering the lives and safety of the community and their own persons.

The first of these desiderata has been that which has always been most prominently presented to the public eye. It is the result the most striking, brilliant and almost magical. It is natural that the friends of these Asylums should point with gratification to the immense proportion of cases they have completely cured, when they have had a fair opportunity of early treatment. Yet your Committee believe that the view of the immense diminution of misery to the sufferer which will be illustrated in some extracts they are about to present, and relief to his friends, are, if less striking, still no less convincing results.

The entire facts in regard to these establishments in many countries are within reach. We need not however look for any data beyond those derived from institutions in our own

section of the controversy, for every fact, detail and circumstance to enable us to judge and act wisely, understandingly and conscientiously in the presence of facts, which are of peculiar value, as grounded on evidence almost identical with those existing among ourselves.

It is in some respects fortunate for us, however disadvantageous it may be other points of view, to discern, that we are amongst the last in the northern states to engage in this object; fortunate, because we now have the whole experiment commenced, tried and tested; offered to our hands literally and freely by those who have passed through the whole routine of doubt, disappointment, expense and risk in establishing what their mentalists pray for.—The whole preliminaries, so disheartening and uncertain, have been settled elsewhere. There would seem to remain no difficulty in following, as far as circumstances correspond, an example so well and verified as an exposure of time, labor and treasure, infinitely greater than has been required by the friends of the most literal and extended science proposed for this State. The trial models before us are capable of being followed and imitated with equal success and as hereafter will be shown at vastly less expense, in every proper issue and particular, from the grand principles of medical and moral treatment down to the most convenient form of a resident *and de jour* doctor. These patterns luminous, being, as it were, in our very midst, give us facilities which they themselves had to go to Europe to obtain, with the additional advantages of their own improvements, of an exactly similar character of the arrangement to be carried out, which varies in different nations, and of the means of procuring in its pursuit, of an identity in the whole necessary arrangements down to the smallest minutie and detail as well as such precise and definite measure of the true cost of establishing and subsequent expense of supporting, as well, modified by adaptation to the different of our location, enable us to judge accurately.

With us there need be no groping in the dark, no engaging in doubtful and untried projects. We have the means of knowing within an infinitesimally small proportion every fact respecting the results of an Insane Hospital in this State, with nearly as much accuracy and certainty as if it had been in operation. The reports of the various American Asyls have impressed, with a diffusive luminousness and too much to be

recommended, labored to afford other communities the means of knowing precisely, definitely, specifically, whether or not it would be expedient for them to follow in the establishment of similar institutions. They give us what we exactly need; not philosophical or ethical disquisitions on insanity, not appeals to our feelings, not diffuse and general statements of facts, not loose suggestions of what has been, what is to be, or what is desirable to be accomplished, but the minute and detailed account of their whole proceedings, their entire results, the whole bill of their expenses down to items the most inconsiderable in themselves, but still important, as evincing a degree of exactness, forming the highest guarantee of our comparatively small and by no means wealthy, community, unwittingly plunging into a business of never ending, reckless, irreparable expenditure.

The eminent gentlemen superintending these Asylums in other states, have exhibited a willingness to communicate such information as their increased experience is continually producing them; a strong desire to forward a cause with which they and their reputations are so much identified, a disposition to spare no personal labor or trouble in affording desired information, in their communication with some of the Committee, which deserves this public recognition, as well as gives assurance of their further willingness to extend their valuable assistance, if desired.

The Committee are aware of no method by which so definite and just a view of the subject of an insane asylum can be afforded, as is a brief analysis of the results of the several institutions which have been for some years in operation in the northern section of the United States.

Commencing at the most distant of these, that at Bloomsburgh, seven miles from the city of New-York, they find by public documents communicated by DONALD MACDONALD, its superintendent, that from the period of its being opened in 1821 to the present time, a single year 1822 not being reported, comprising a period of 14 years, the whole number admitted, has been

admitted.....	1777
number cured.....	728
" improved.....	313
" died.....	128

discharged, cured and improved subjects 448

By the reports of the two last years it appears that in

1835, of 57 recent cases, that is, where the patients have been insane one year or less, 4 were cured; (out of 165 old cases many of which had long been accumulating in the hospital, 19 only were cured.) In 1836, of 68 recent cases, the number found to be cured was 52, and only 16 out of 173 old cases cured and discharged improved.

By another account made some two years, it appears that the proportion of recoveries of cases not exceeding one year's standing, is 70 in 100 of the whole number. For the space of 8 years prior to this return, the per centage of all cases absolutely and entirely cured, not including those who were discharged in an improved state, was 44 in an 100. With regard to the management of the insane at this asylum it is remarked:—"The patients are arranged in classes according to the form which their particular maniacal delusions have assumed—and treated in that manner which seems best adapted to their morbid associations of ideas, in restoring the power and habits of self control; in substituting agreeable sensation and reflection for those which are painful and irritating; in inducing a habit of employing their judgement, which like every other faculty is strengthened by exercise. The means of effecting these ends must be adapted to the case of each patient and are of course extremely various. Harsh treatment and all needless restraint is avoided. Chains are not used; even confinement to the cells is seldom resorted to. As much liberty as is consistent with the safety of the patients is allowed; many are permitted to leave the house and to employ themselves in the garden or on the farm. They are taken out to ride in a carriage kept for that purpose; occupations of different kinds are afforded them and they are permitted to partake of various innocent amusements; they are allowed to sit together in classes and every thing that can appropriately contribute to their comfort is particularly attended to; the bible is occasionally read to them and on the Sabbath a number of the gospel is provided for the benefit of those who are susceptible of profiting by his instructions, a library, &c.

This institution has been always richly patronised by the State.

The Connecticut retreat for the Insane was founded through the established liberality of the Legislature of that State and its citizens, is situated at Hartford and was open-

ed in 1824. The number of patients has averaged about 20, though of late years 30 to 50 have generally been admitted at once. The entire number admitted since its establishment has been 316, of which 25 have been recent cases; of these last 237 have recovered, a ratio of a little less than 94 per cent.

A better general view of this institution cannot be given, than in the following extracts from the annual report of its medical visitors, a compilation of distinguished medical practitioners to whom the duty of supervision of the entire management is delegated.

"In respect to the moral and intellectual treatment, the first business of a physician on the admission of a patient is, to gain his entire confidence. With this view he is treated with the greatest kindness, however violent his conduct may be, is assured all the mercy his case admits of, and is made to understand, if he is not capable of reflection, that so far from having arrived at a madhouse, where he is to be confined, he is come to a pleasant and peaceful residence, where all kindness and attention will be shown him and where every means will be employed for the recovery of his health.

In conversation and conference become necessary, it is impressed upon his mind, that it is not to be done for the purpose of judgment but for his own edification and that of his keepers. He is even is deception on the patient employed or allowed—in the contrary, the greatest frankness as well as kindness, forms a part of the moral treatment. His case is explained to him and he is made to understand as far as possible, the reasons why the treatment to which he is subjected has become necessary.

By this course of intellectual instruction, a far less bound as a source of experience at our institution, that patients who had things been ruling when confined without being told the reason, and refractory when recommended instead of being interested, soon become peaceable and docile.

This kind of treatment of course does not apply to idiots or those laboring under low grades of mental deficiency, but it is applicable to every other class of mental disease—whether situated or insensate."

In their report for 1880, the visitors remark:—

"The number of recoveries of mental cases in this institution has been greater for the last four years, than at any

other like establishment in this country.

"No public institution in Europe, whose reports we have seen, claims to have cured over 71 1-2 per cent. of recent cases, and they average less than 40 of all. This institution reports a cure of over 91 per cent. of recent cases and an average of 51 of all."

"We are perfectly satisfied that under the present benevolent and enlightened policy, no institutions in the country can exceed this in the comfort and contentment of its inmates, or in the prospect afforded for the restoration of diseased intellect. We do not speak of this intemperately; we estimate highly all the institutions of this character in this country and believe they are not excelled by those of any other. We have witnessed in our monthly visits to this institution, the influence of kindness, sympathy and affection, in soothing the ravages of the furor, in encouraging the hopes of the desponding and arming the melancholic from his gloomy musings—we have seen the mind emerging from the cloud which enveloped it and by degrees assuming its empire, till at last reason has been confirmed and all the hidden attributes of intellect brought out and displayed in native strength and lustre. A period of six years has elapsed since the opening of this institution for the reception of patients. During this period we have seen more than 100 individuals who were laboring under the delusions of insanity, wretched in themselves, and the occasion of immense trouble to their friends, restored to health, to usefulness and the proud prerogatives of a rational mind." "Contemplate," they continue, "for a moment, the benefits of the retreat, thus extended in its infancy—sending forth one hundred rational minds to diffuse comfort and happiness around them, in exchange for the ravages of the maniac or the disordered illusions of the melancholic. Reflect that the restoration of this 100 sends joy and happiness into families and communities and that thousands are benefited by the cure of even this small number; that parents are restored to children, whose condition would be worse than orphanage; that children have been returned to parents who would otherwise have mourned as those without hope."

The report further remarks:—"The benevolent mind cannot contemplate without horror, the possibility of a recurrence to the old system of management in which the whip

was the incentive to action and the damp and dreary dungeon was the abode alike of the maniac and the convict!"

"The law of kindness is the most effectual control for mental or moral alienation. The system of government adopted in this Institution is truly parental. No violence is permitted and no restraints are allowed, but such as are necessary for the welfare of the patients. The attendants are required to be mild, forbearing, neither to be harsh in language or in manner; by this means the patient often becomes much attached to his attendant, and almost without exception to his physician."

With respect to the McLean Asylum at Charlestown, connected with the Massachusetts General Hospital, and founded by private subscription and the liberal donation of the ladies, from whom it has received its name, the Committee have no statistical facts except those contained in its last report. Its number of patients from 1822, the year of its opening, to 1855, was 1261, and it has always been deemed a very successful institution. In 1855 from May to December, of the 22 recent cases, 24 were recovered; of the old cases of 1 or more than a year's continuance, 6 out of 29 were recovered: convalescent and much improved. This report observes:—

"Our quiet and convalescent patients are also taken with us to church, to visit places of interest and amusement, are taken into our family, dine at our table, and sit in our parlors; they are made to feel as far as possible, that in coming here, they have only found a new home, new friends, new brothers and sisters; and that we are interested to promote their comfort, welfare and happiness. In the location of patients, this object is constantly kept in view and they are brought forward as fast as possible and are deprived of privileges and returned to the lower stories, only when they have proved by their conduct that they cannot exercise proper self-control. No punishment is in any case permitted and the sole means which can be regarded as corrective are the deprivation of some accustomed privilege, change of location and the occasional use of the shower bath with the noisy and filthy. Personal restraint is in no case made use of, except with those disposed to destroy clothing or other property, and with the furious to prevent injury to themselves or others; the number is always small who require any personal restraint."

With regard to the institutions enumerated, your Committee

have not referred to the expense either of their endowment or their being carried on: and for this reason, they have been founded and are kept in operation with a view to the classes of society able to pay an equivalent for the advantages received. Consequently the whole style of outfit, expenditure and arrangement in a pecuniary point of view are not analogous to any suggested institution for the pauper and other inmates, of New Hampshire.

The State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester, however, established at the sole expense of the State of Massachusetts, and furnishing a glorious monument of the liberality and philanthropy of that Commonwealth, being in fact the only Asylum for insane paupers in the United States at the present time, though many others are in progress, from its success, its widely extended benefits, its comparatively moderate expenditures, well deserves to be held up as a model for our imitation whilst the universal satisfaction with which the people have viewed its results may well prevent any apprehension of regret, disappointment or dissatisfaction to the people of this State should its legislature resolve to follow its example.

To the 30th of last November the number of patients admitted into this Hospital has been 385; of these cases, and from the fact that they comprised all who had been accumulating in jails, &c., for years, they were of the most unpromising description as far as actual cure is regarded, 53.3-4 per cent. were recovered. Of those whose malady was of less than a year's standing, 80 per cent. were entirely restored. Of the old cases 27 per cent. were cured.

In their report made a short time after the institution was opened the Trustees remark:—

"But however deeply all our better feelings may be moved, by the reflection that thirty-two of our fellow beings, under the auspicious influences of this institution have already been restored to reason and returned to bless their families and friends, who under the former coercive system of treatment would have mourned their loss 'without hope;' yet the unaltered condition of such as have not recovered, the trustees regard as a subject for equal congratulation among men and gratitude to Heaven. No one who has not actually seen from time to time, the inmates of the Hospital, can comprehend the extent of the change which has taken

place is every external indication that marks physical and moral condition of a human being. Many who in their paroxysms, used formerly to wound and homicide their own persons to a degree, that threatened life itself, now habitually exercise an ordinary degree of prudence in avoiding the common causes of annoyance or accident. Not less than 100 of those brought to the Hospital seemed to regard human beings as enemies, and their first impulse was to assail them with open or disguised force.—Now there are not more than twelve who offer violence. Of forty persons who formerly dressed themselves of cloth, even in the most inclement seasons of the year, only eight do it now. Through all the galleries there is far less susceptibility to excitement, more quietude, more civility and kindness exercised towards each other.

The wallings of the despairing and the ravings of the frantic are dispelled. The internal change is legible upon the countenance. With the sense it is emphatically true that the dark shadows of the mind are visibly projected upon the face. Hence from the alteration which too in many instances occurred in the outer aspect, amounting to almost a change in identity, there may be inferred a corresponding alteration of the condition. The deep lines of anguish have been obliterated or softened, whose sharp engravings were begun, many years ago in despair. The wide circle and heart sickening radius of horrors, exhibited by the features of our institution when first brought together, as though every region of the "dark immense" of insanity had sent a representative of its terrors, have been greatly reduced in extent and mitigated in quality. If the erroneous action of the mind, has not yet been rectified, the dreadful emotions that once were engendered and aggravated its movements have been dispelled and they are now succeeded by milder and more peaceful sentiments. Happily, the feelings and emotions may be directed off their pain and terror even after the intellect has for ever lost all power of distinguishing the true from the false in its ideas and perceptions."

"The system of treatment," it continues, "from which the foregoing results have been realized has been a continued endeavor to preserve or re-establish the healthy health of the patient; by careful attention to cleanliness, exercise, air, and a suitable diet. It has been the law of all these measures in administering the daily affairs of the institution to

exclude as far as in humanly possible all causes of mental disquietude, by substituting persuasion for force, by practicing forbearance, mildness and all the nameless offices of humanity and by inculcating in every practicable way, the minds of the patients with a new set of pleasing, cheerful, grateful and benevolent emotions. In fine the whole scheme of moral treatment is embraced in a single idea, humanity—the law of love—that sympathy which appropriates another's consciousness of pain and makes it a personal relief from suffering, whenever another's sufferings are relieved." In their last report the same body observe that "the extent of its benefits and the nature of them may best be made known and appreciated by an exposition of a few cases reported by the superintendent.

No. 1. One case reported by the Commissioners for the erection of the Hospital had been, when he was brought to the institution 28 years in prison; seven he had not felt the influence of fire and many nights he had not laid down for fear of freezing. He had not been shaved for 28 years and he had been provoked and excited by the introduction of hundreds to see the exhibitions of his raving. He is now and has been comfortable in health, well clad, keeps his bed and room remarkably clean, and although very insouciant on certain subjects, is most of the time pleasant, companionable and entirely harmless and docile. He shaves himself twice a week, sits at table with 16 others, takes his meals, walks about the village and over the fields with an attendant to accompany him and enjoys himself as well as his ill-lusions will permit.—This man committed homicide.

No. 2. Had been in one prison 14 years; he was naked, his hair and beard grown long and his skin so entirely filled with the dust of charcoal as to render it impossible from his appearance to discover what nation he was of. He was in the habit of screaming so loud as to annoy the whole neighborhood and was considered a most dangerous man. When he came to the hospital he was provided with a new suit of clothes which the sheriff advised us to have taken off and preserved as he doubted not he would strip them in tatters in two hours. He was however induced to preserve them with great care, and has constantly for two years worn his clothes, sleeps in a good bed, sits at a table to take his meals and is quite a civil, although a very insouciant man. He too committed homicide.

No. 1. An old man of 70 years of age, by nature, had been confined 20 years and had his chains taken off some time in this time. He has for many months been very quiet and civil and behaves like a gentleman, and although quite insane, keeps the room in good order and takes his medical saline with 17 others with the utmost propriety.

No. 2. A female, had been so long confined under a strict regimen, as wholly to lose the use of her lower limbs. Her health had been miserably impaired by confinement, and she was unable to stand and had not walked for years. In the hospital her health has been restored, her limbs restored again useful, so that she walks without difficulty, is now in the enjoyment of health and reason, and able to labor sufficiently to support herself. She is now with her friends.

No. 3. Is a mechanic who had been in close confinement for six years. He committed homicide; and if this institution had not been opened, would probably never have been permitted to leave his cell. He is now a useful mechanic, labors a great portion of his time—often reads his bible and the public papers—is exceedingly rejoiced that this place has been provided for him; and thanks its founders and contributors daily for the benefits conferred by it on himself and other inmates. He walks abroad and often attends church.

No. 4. Was confined 17 years before he was removed to the hospital. He was very violent and dangerous, often in chains notwithstanding he was in a strong prison room. He used to commit and commit acts of violence that required the most rigid restraint. He is now well dressed, civil and although often excited is respectful and pleasant—is in the habit of assisting the females in washing the floors, drawing water, preparing food, and similar domestic offices, and is about the premises without restraint.

He committed homicide.

No. 5. Had been confined a violent maniac. Had been caged and chained for years. It was concluded to set him free and see how he would conduct. He had had of his brother and killed him with a dagger, and, pursuing his sister, would probably have done the same to her had he not been arrested in season to prevent it. When caged he was naked and filthy; but now dresses neatly, is thrifty and civil; mixes freely with all other persons and though quite insane, is to us perfectly harmless.

No. 10. Has been insane 2 years, almost the whole of this time except out in a cage. He hit the throat of an infant while sleeping in a cradle, instantly killing it, and took an attack with an axe upon an infant then at the same time. It is stated that he was in a most wretched condition before he came here. He is now strong but pleasantly keeps his bed and seems in good humor. Most his meals, especially at the table, spends much time in reading and conversing with the inmates and labors some.

No. 12. A patient 6 years confined for homicide in close jail, and probably would have been confined for life. After six months here he commenced labor and has not only continued it daily, but takes excellent care of everything connected with the farming and gardening establishment. He is pleasant, very mild in his feelings, and ready to perform everything that is required of him. He is trustworthy and can perform labor without superintendence. We have frequently noticed the novel spectacle of two men ploughing in the field alone, both insane, both having committed homicide, and both having been confined in jail for a very long time.

"Many other similar cases might be named. They were all considered incurable, but are now comfortable, pay great attention to habits of cleanliness and order. We have remarked that when one of these men has been placed in solitary confinement and suffered to remain a few days without inspection, the disposition to tear clothing, to go naked and filthy, returns. We have many that have for years been naked, exceedingly filthy and violent, that are now well clad, decent and civil. We have probably fifty who have been so; at present scarcely half a dozen remaining in these habits." The establishment was founded at the expense of the State, at what cost the committee had no means of ascertaining. By the last treasurer's report it would appear that its entire expenditures for the year 1855 were rising \$12,500. Of this about \$12,000 was paid towns and individuals for the support of patients, leaving the amount of about \$500 to meet the expenses of such paupers as in this State, would fall under the appellation of county paupers. The average number of patients is 115 to 120; "so that the actual cost for each is estimated at \$2.20 per week." "Should the Legislature," continues this report, "think it expedient to erect a hospital for that class of patients deemed incurable, yet unsafe to be at

large, as no more expense would be requisite for Superintendent, Steward and Assistant Physicians, there can be but little doubt that the occupants of such a building might be supported for about \$1.50 per week."

The committee would refer to the fact illustrating the sentiment prevailing amongst the people of Massachusetts as to the benefits of this institution where no patients are admitted except paid for by the towns or friends of who are county charges, [and of course their paupers being sent is optional with the towns in which the patients reside,] that in 3 months of last year in which a record was kept, 46 sufferers were rejected for want of room out of 73 applications.—Enough has been said, it is believed fully to illustrate the advantages which are to be expected from this kind of institution.

The only point which remains to be considered is, whether such an establishment can be founded at an expenditure commensurate with its advantages to the public, consistent with the economical habits of our people, and which will afford a grateful instead of a mortifying subject for their future reflections.

From the number of insane in the towns reported, 342, your committee feel safe in estimating the whole number in the State at about 550; of these about 150 to 160 can be judged fit subjects for the aids of a public institution, making a number about equal to that accommodated at Worcester. By these returns your committee are satisfied that the present actual average cost of supporting the insane poor of this State is very near the one estimated by the late Governor Dummer, viz., about \$75 each per annum. We have seen that at Worcester the expense of one class of patients is \$2.50 per week; of another \$1.50; if those classes were equal in numbers as they nearly are at that Hospital, the average cost then remains at \$2.00 per week.

Let any person make the briefest comparison of the leading items of expense, such as salaries, wages, provisions, fuel &c. in the large and populous town of Worcester, with what it would be in the interior of New-Hampshire, and not a doubt can remain that the same number could be equally well sustained here at \$1.50 per week, a cost in fact below their present actual expense to our communities.

It is addition to this the very important fact to be regarded, that each one of these insane, who is so situated as to be helpless depending upon him to support, is of necessity compel-

ed to transfer the burden over to the public, thus indirectly increasing the cost of insanity to the people; and if it also be considered that a burden of years must be experienced in every case from the hopelessness of cure, which would to a great extent be removed by the curative influences of an asylum, the committee feel sure that, so far from the institution being an expense to the public, it would be most desirable as an economical, money-saving establishment, without looking at any benefits of cure, amelioration or safety. The committee rejoice that there is still another point of view, which has been presented by the experience of the few last years in such institutions, which they feel must remove the lingering apprehensions of any that an Insane Asylum would be any additional charge beyond its first erection and commencement. It has been found by actual experience that such establishments can be made to a very considerable extent self-supporting institutions; that a large proportion, about one half, at most hospitals, are in such a condition as to render them not only capable of productive labour, but that such labour is of immense consequence as regards cure. The committee beg leave to refer to the opinions of two gentlemen, which have been communicated to them, whose views from their situations and their long and successful experience in the management of the insane, are entitled to as much weight as any human opinion. Dr. Lee, Superintendent of the Asylum at Charlestown, observes under date of Jan. 28th, 1836,—“There are objects to be sought for in connection with an Asylum for the insane, which I consider of the greatest importance.” “Almost every writer upon the treatment of the insane has spoken of the advantage of occupation and labour as contributing to their recovery, and the institutions of this country are very deficient in the means for affording it. The three public institutions in New England have not 20 acres of land attached to each establishment. No one ought to have less than 50, and an institution established for pauper inmates ought not to have less than 100 acres and even that number would probably be too small should there be 150 or 200 patients. Pasture, meadow and tillage land should be had in abundance; the farm should be well stocked; cattle, sheep, and swine raised for the use of the institution, should be fed from the produce of the farm; corn, potatoes, grain, flax, all kinds of garden sence, &c. &c., should be raised by the labour of the patients. This is not all; there should

be dairy rooms, work shops and store houses, all arranged for the particular object of employing them. They should be engaged (in times and seasons for the several labours,) in cutting, making and loading hay; planting, sowing, cultivating and getting in garden and field crops: collecting and storing away fruit: sawing, splitting and piling wood: husking and shelling corn; dressing flax; feeding stock, milking cows, making butter and cheese, washing, ironing &c., &c., in fine, all the labours of a large farming establishment, besides various mechanical labours." "I confidently," he says, "anticipate the time when all these things will be performed in our insane asylum, and when arrangements for such labour will be considered as indispensable, as the strong rooms and strait waist coats for the refractory have been in times past. This is not mere expectation. In the institution over which I have the honor to preside, we have within the last 8 months, illustrated in our experience, not only the practicability, but the great utility of labour.—Our farming, gardening and the sawing, splitting and piling all our wood, besides mechanical labours, have been done by the patients, with the assistance of the attendants, and our only difficulty has been that we have not been able to find enough for them to do.—The females have also been engaged in domestic labours and in sewing, knitting &c. &c., and all this without coercion, but by calling into exercise the feelings necessary to excite them to voluntary labour. Useful labour is always the best employment. But there are some who will not be thus engaged; these must be occupied, and those that do not work should always have recreation; and besides the various amusements and diversions which can be enjoyed within doors and in the yards, they should be taken to ride and walk into the country, sent out on fishing excursions, skating, &c. The occupations should be as constant and as varied as possible, and the time will come, when to allow a man to indulge his reveries in idleness, until he has sunk into a state of confirmed insanity, will be considered, as it deserves to be, a gross neglect of duty. The order of the day," he concludes, "is ordered." Our old institutions must and will provide the means for facilitating the employment of their patients, and if with all the light and knowledge which can now be obtained, our Legislatures, and the other bodies of men engaged in establishing new institutions, neglect to provide these facilities for restoring the insane, they

will inflict a sore evil upon humanity, &c."

Dr. Woodward, of the State Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, on this subject remarks:—"The produce which we raised the last year was estimated to be worth at least \$800, and might if we had 100 acres of Connecticut river land, easily be made four times that amount. I do most anxiously wish that one institution may be established in this country, in which the benefits of labour, both as a restorative and in a pecuniary point of view, may be fairly tried." He again remarks:—"The institution, as well as the inmates, will be benefitted by labour. I think that the 10 per cent. of the annual expense can be saved in this way." In another communication he says:—"We (Dr. Lee and himself) believe in the efficacy and practicability of this plan. We hazard our reputation upon its success, if the means can be placed in our hands."—"Give us the means for the employment of the inmates on lands and in shops, and I think we will exhibit results which will gratify the public."

The last annual report of the Worcester establishment says:—"On the subject of labour all our experience confirms the view formerly expressed of its utility, both to the patients and to the institution. We have at present a dozen *incurable* patients, who could labour daily in the field, and as many more that might be employed a part of the time pleasantly and profitably. An intimation of the character of this will always have a number of working men in it, and they are always disposed to labor when permitted. Shut up in the halls, they are often unhappy, discontented and troublesome: suffered to go into the field and garden and join in the labours of the season, they will be cheerful, pleasant and healthful. Patients duly appreciate the confidence thus reposed in them, and bring into requisition all their powers of self control to show that confidence has not been misplaced. Appetite and sleep are promoted by labour, the physical powers become renovated, and the prospect of cure is greatly increased. I am confident," he continues, "with suitable moral management, labour is the best means of restoring chronic cases to health and mental soundness."

"Convalescents are also particularly benefited by labour. When the excitement of disease wears away and the mind becomes capable of rational reflection, the subject of employment is first adverted to; the animal powers feel the need and

demand active exertion. "Give me something to do" is the universal request of this class of patients."

"I am aware" observes Dr. Woodward, "that other kinds of exercise have been recommended by those whose opinions are entitled to the greatest weight on this subject. Whatever may be the case in other countries, and in other institutions in this country, I am confident that for the inmates of this hospital, coming as they do almost exclusively from the labouring classes of society, agricultural and mechanical employments are most congenial to their feelings and most advantageous in promoting recovery. We have not the military taste of the Prussians and the Germans, nor a relish for the light amusements of the French and Italians. We are emphatically a working people and are not in our element without labour.

Taking it for granted that an Asylum could be carried on without expense to the State as it appears to be at Worcester, the committee feel that in regard to the first cost of endowment, they cannot do better than to refer to the details and estimates, referred to this House in 1834, as containing the requirements and expenditures estimated in a manner accurate, liberal, and within the limits of truth, which they have annexed to this report. By this appears that the entire expense of building, furniture &c., would be about \$27000; which with \$4000 needed for suitable lands and improvements, would make the total of \$31000 necessary for the entire object.

In conclusion your committee would remark, that they have not a doubt, that if the entire facts relative to the condition of the insane poor of this state were presented to the people of New Hampshire, there would be but one opinion in relation to the wisdom, the expediency, and the economy of establishing an asylum for the insane. Trusting that the enlightened attention of our citizens may be so directed to this subject as to justify speedy action of their legislature in the premises, they beg leave to report the following resolution, recommending its consideration to be deferred to the fall session of this body:—

LUTHER V. BELL,

for the Committee.

Resolved, That the further consideration of the subject be postponed to the next session of the Legislature.

AN
APPEAL
TO THE
CITIZENS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,
IN BEHALF OF
THE
SUFFERING INSANE.

"BLESS'D ARE THE MERCIFUL."

PORTSMOUTH:
C. W. BRIDGES, PRINTER.
1838.

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

CITIZENS of NEW-HAMPSHIRE:—In the following pages, we appeal to you for your countenance and aid in the establishment of a suitable Asylum for the Insane in our State,—a class of population, for which almost every other State in the Union has already made competent provision, and in whose relief we trust that New-Hampshire is no longer backward.

We shall base our appeal on the number of the Insane among us, their previous character, the causes which have made them insane, their present condition, the nature of their disease, and the feasibility of its successful treatment.

The number of the Insane is probably greater in proportion to the population in this, than in any other country in the world. The reasons for this are to be found in our liberal institutions, our unbounded freedom of thought and action, the vast field open for enterprise, the agitating political and religious controversies, which distract the community, and the frequency of popular excitements of every kind. By all these the mind is prematurely stimulated, is kept in stronger action, in wilder agitation, than elsewhere. It is for these reasons the better fitted for effort and for usefulness: but it is at the same time more liable to become unstrung and unstable, just as the bow so bent as to give the arrow the boldest flight is the most likely to recoil. It is computed that there cannot be less than 50,000 insane persons in the United States. In 1812, when the population of Connecticut was about what that of New-Hampshire is now, a Committee of the Connecticut Legislature reported, that they were at least one thousand individuals mentally deranged within the bounds of that State.

There are probably no fewer than this number in our own State at the present moment; for there is no assignable reason why insanity should be more prevalent in Connecticut than in New-Hampshire.*

* The Committee of our own Legislature of 1827 reported from very partial returns 250 cases of insanity, exclusive of Manic. Idiots are nearly or quite as numerous as the Insane, so that the data on which that Committee reported would have reached not far from 500 in subjects for a charitable Asylum.

Who are these *flowered* people? What was their *character* and standing in their better days? Some of them, indeed many of them, but still only an unusually disabbling minority, owe their loss of reason to their own intemperance and profligacy. Very many of them were persons of the best talents and the best promise; and had prepared for or entered upon the highest stations in the community. Literary and scientific men are often found among the inmates of the Insane Hospital. Each of the learned professions contributes its share. A large space is occupied on every catalogue by those, who have devoted themselves to the arduous, embarrassing, yet thankless task of the instruction of youth. The merchants and mechanics of our larger towns furnish also their quota of the subjects of this dreadful malady, from among those who deserved well of the community, by doing up, while they were able, their measure of enterprise and usefulness. But insanity occurs more frequently in the agricultural portion of the community than in any other. This appears from a comparison both of English and American returns. In twelve exclusively agricultural counties in England, the proportion of the insane was recently reported to be one in 825. In twelve other counties, where the invalids are differently employed, the proportion of the insane was found to be but one 1200. In the last report of the Worcester Asylum we have a list of the occupations of 382 of its past and present inmates. On this list we have 91 farmers and 75 laborers, while the remaining 216 are divided among 58 different trades and professions, averaging less than 4 to each. We do not then petition our agricultural districts to make provision for the insane poor of our populous towns and villages, but to provide a house of refuge for a malady, to which their own pursuits are peculiarly exposed. Nor should it be forgotten in this connection that a very large portion of the insane consists of females, who stand in the tender relations of wife and mother, and have in health sustained those relations with exemplary diligence and fidelity.

It should also be born in mind that insanity is the most frequent between the ages of 25 and 35,—at the very time of life when men are the most active and prominent members of society, and are surrounded by the most numerous and momentous domestic and social claims.

This is also a malady, which affects with singular frequency

cy and severity persons of delicate sensibilities, of peculiarly refined feelings and tender conscience, in fine, the very persons who constitute the richest and brightest ornaments of society.

Thus the very individuals, who make up the great body of the insane, could presser upon the charitable energies of the community a claim, not so much of grace as of debt.

Their claim presents itself with new force, when we consider the usual *causes of insanity*. It is more than almost any other disorder the direct, immediate infliction of Providence. It is indeed sometimes the result of criminal indulgence; but, even in those cases, the sufferer, by the tremendous retribution which he brings upon himself, disarms the resentment of the public, and claims unmingled pity. But nearly half the cases that occur are the result of hereditary predisposition,—one of the inscrutable appointments of the Almighty, in which the patient himself is wholly passive and innocent. Reason is often lost by intense devotion to study, to duty or to business,—often by bodily disorders, which no sagacity could have foreseen or skill prevented,—often by unavoidable accidents affecting either the seat of sensation or the nervous system. Sometimes it results from those overwhelming visitations of Providence, by which the earnings of a life of industry are swept away at a single blow, a house made desolate by death, or long cherished hopes suddenly blasted. Often too is man accountable for the insanity of his fellow man. The oppressor of the widow and the fatherless, the cultivator of innocence, the tyrannical parent, the malicious child, the jealous husband, the unfaithful wife, all tender darkened and perverted intellects among the victims of their folly and guilt, while every year adds to the melancholy list of the pure, gentle, and lovely, who are driven to madness by the breach of pledged faith, by the coldness, levity or villainy of those, who have won but to betray the strongest, holiest affections of their hearts. Then for another large class of the insane the whole community is responsible. I refer to those, who have been deprived of reason in the whirlwinds of popular excitement, that so often sweep over our land in devastating fury. Thus innocent on the part of its subjects is insanity in general. One would think that a class of so entirely innocent sufferers should have commended

themselves is universal and uniform kindness and protection. But the contrary we shall find to be the case, if we consider,

The *present condition of the Insane* among us. Even those who are rich or connected with rich families, except when in hospitals, are often exposed to want and suffering. Fear on the part of relatives drives them to the expedient of close confinement in cages, cellars or out-houses; close confinement makes its subjects furiose; and their extreme madness renders it impossible, unsafe or useless to furnish them with fire, or square, or better food than would be cut to brutes.

In numerous instances a hard-hearted relative or calculating guardian has got possession of an insane man's property, lived on it at ease himself, and considered the lawful owner to a meagre subsistence, as regards both shelter and food; thus is vouchsafed to the very *wine*. There are not wanting cases, in which men of ample property see chained to the doors of their own outbuildings, and glad to pick the bones thrown into their kennels.

But the greater part of the insane are in laudable life and indigent circumstances. Either loss of property has been the cause of derangement; or calamities, from which a more prosperous lot would have shielded them, have bowed their heads unsheltered; or diseases and accidents, to which the needy and laborious are peculiarly liable, have debilitated reason; or insanity, which might have been easily arrested at the outset, has become permanent, perhaps incurable, for want of the means of relief, which wealth would at once have procured. And what is the condition of the insane poor? How is it if they remain with their friends? Where pride and poverty go together, and it is deemed indisputable to keep the sufferer out of sight, perhaps a garret three feet high, perhaps a corner in the cellar drier than the rest is made the place of confinement; and, while the mental disorder is exasperated by restraint and ill treatment, innumerable bodily diseases are often incurred. There have been instances, in which kathectic deformities have been produced by such treatment, in which the body has been bent double by a constrained posture, and the fluids depleted forever of their healthy functions. But let poor relatives be touched with feelings of humanity, and not admi-

is an apartment of the cellar by herself. She was, however, infuriate if any one came near her. This woman was committed to this cellar seven years ago. The apartments are about 6 feet by 8. They are made of coarse plank, and have an orifice for the admission of light and air, about 6 inches by 4. The darkness was such in two of these apartments, that nothing could be seen by looking through the crevice in the door. At the same time there was a poor human in each. One old man had lived in one of them seven years." Such are some of the cases, which were brought to light in Massachusetts shortly before the opening of the Worcester asylum, to which these same unfortunate beings are now transferred. Nor are they solitary or even rare instances. They are but fair specimens of the state of things in almost every almshouse and jail in New-England, in which the insane are kept. The writer of this has himself witnessed similar cases of confinement within a very few days. We find frequent mention, however of cases, which we trust, are exceptions to the general rule, such as an entire paralysis of the lower limbs, occasioned by confining the maniac with a short chain, and, worse than all, the admission of hundreds of spectators to witness through the gratings of the cell the wretched inmate's squabbles and madness. In our own State, in one case, the feet of a maniac confined in one of the jails were suffered to become so badly frozen, as to render amputation necessary.

It is from such sufferings as these, that we are solicited to relieve our fellow-beings,—our fellow-men,—not guilty, but innocent men and women,—virtuous and Christian men and women, who have been, but who, if left in chains and darkness, can never again be an ornament and a blessing to society. It is to put an end to just such wretchedness as this, to raise the maniac from a condition worse than of horses and cattle, to clothe him, to warm him, to feed him, to soothe him, to screen him, to shield him from the gaze of brutal curiosity, that we beseech our civil fathers to contribute the aid of the State in providing a suitable Asylum for the Insane, and implore help in the work from a Christian public, from a public that can reach the arms of its charity across oceans and continents, yet too often forgets claims, which lie close to its own door. If the mere shelter and comfort of such beings were the sole object in

view, we might safely rest the merits of the cause here, and appeal to sentiments of humanity, which the bare mention of such sufferings as we have described must awaken in every breast.

But the *nature of Insanity*, authorizing as it does the hope of successful treatment, proffers yet an additional claim in behalf of its subjects. Insanity is often spoken of as a disease of the mind; but wrongly. The mind, the soul, the immaterial existence within, cannot be sick any more than it can die. Its medium of communication with the outward universe may be partially or entirely cut off, so that it can neither receive right impressions, nor express or communicate its own conditions. This is the case in insanity, which is a disorder, not of the soul itself, but of its bodily instruments or organs. Sometimes wrong impressions are conveyed to the mind, which still holds unimpaired its capacity of reasoning and expressing itself; and in such cases the patient retains his previous mental and moral character, reasons as soundly as in health, though on false premises; and manifests his tainted emotions and principles of action, though he mistakes the occasions for their exercise. In instances of this kind, the unimpaired, but deluded soul, proffers the strongest of claims upon the sympathy of its fellow spirits, and demands the most earnest of efforts to dis-
 away the delusion. In other cases, the soul leads a hidden, secluded life, is enshrouded in its inner shrine, kept like a sealed fountain, holds no converse with the outward universe, retains no impression of what transpired during its delirium, and, if the disease is removed, commences its action at the very point, where the fit of insanity had suspended it weeks, or months, or years before. Of this peculiar suspension and prostration of the intellect during insanity, and its capacity of taking up the thread of its operations where it dropped it, we will relate one in lieu of many perfectly authenticated instances. A man had been employed for a day with a beetle and wedges in splitting pieces of wood for erecting a fence. At night before going home, he put the beetle and wedges into the hollow of an old tree, and directed his sons, who had been at work in an adjoining field, to accompany him the next morning to assist in

ed to bear burden which Providence lays upon them, they are able to do but little better for an insane friend. They at first leave him at large, without any means of surrounding him with salutary influences, or of shielding him from the occasions or objects, which are most likely to excite paroxysms of madness. He becomes irritated by daily unavoidable, though petty causes of vexation, perhaps exaggerated by the mimicry of children, or the insults of the heedless and cruel, and is thus led to commit acts of violence, or brought into a state of mania, which renders confinement necessary. And then the only resource is to build a grated cage in one corner of the chief apartment, of the common sitting and eating room of the house, where an insane father, wife, or brother, is kept for months or years in full sight of the same members of the household, they either having their hearts gradually hardened by familiarity with a scene so bathosic, or, if they retain their sensibility, themselves acquiring from sympathy a strong tendency towards insanity. Indeed, the cases are numerous, in which mental disorders have proved thus contagious. Nor is this mode of domestic confinement limited to the dwelling of the poor. In many a spacious and comfortable farm-house in every part of our State, may this spectacle be witnessed. It is hard for even a wealthy farmer to command ready money enough to support his insane relative at an expensive private asylum; and, even if the cost would be no obstacle, such means of relief are too remote and too little known for him naturally to have recourse to them. But had we an asylum of our own, of easy and cheap access, the class of patients thus confined in our agricultural districts would very soon be brought from their cages, and placed under its shelter and curative treatment.

But very many of the insane poor are left to the tender mercies of the public. In Massachusetts, before the establishment of the Worcester asylum, it was ascertained that not far from 650 insane persons, (more than one thousand part of the population,) were confined in jails, almshouses, and houses of correction. The proportion cannot vary much between the two States, and though the number of those confined in public establishments cannot be so great, if we reckon those, who are sold out to the lowest bidder, as the paupers are in most of our county towns, we shall per-

ably reach an aggregate for our State of at least 350 insane paupers. And if an individual treated his heart of burden as the accredited agents of the public are constantly treating the insane, he would be indicted at once, and spurned from society as too much of a brute to deserve a foothold among men. "The thing which strikes me as the most shocking and abominable," says the humane Spurzheim, "is that the villains, who have disturbed the peace of society, live in palaces, have an airing, sometimes a play ground, have fresh water in the yards, often cold and warm baths, and everything comfortable and clean; while the poor insane, who want and deserve our pity, lie in straw and dirt, exposed to all vicissitudes of season and weather, reduced to the mercy of the turnkey and less attended to than a horse or a wild beast."

Authentic reports of jails in New-England show us that this language is not one whit too severe. The most tolerable condition of insane prisoners is that, in which they can be admitted to share the lot of felons, and to mingle freely in their society. But when kept by themselves, the following extracts from a report of the Prison Discipline Society will sufficiently show the hopeless misery, to which they are reduced. "One was found," says the report, "in an apartment, in which he had been for nine years. He had a wreath of rags round his body, and another round his neck. This was all his clothing. He had no bed, chair or bench. Two or three rough planks were strowed around the room; a heap of filthy straw like the nest of swine, was in the corner. He had built a bird's nest of mud in the iron grate of his den. Connected with this wretched apartment was a dark dungeon, having no orifice for admission of light, heat or air, except the iron door, about 2 1/2 feet square, opening into it from the prison." "In another house of correction a lunatic was found in a plank apartment of the first story, where he had been eight years. During that time he had never left the room but twice. The door of this apartment had not been opened in sixteen months. The food was furnished through a small orifice in the door. The room was warmed by no fire. In the cellar of the same prison were five lunatics. The windows of the cellar were no defence against the storm, and, as might be supposed, the women of the house said, *It's here a sight to do to keep them from freezing.* There was no fire in this cellar, which could be felt by four of the inmates. One of the five had a little fire of turf

making the fence. In the night he became moribund, and continued in a state of insanity for several years, during which time his mind was not occupied on any of the subjects, with which he had been conversant when in health. At length his reason suddenly returned, and the first question he asked was whether his sons had brought home the beetle and wedges. They, afraid to enter upon any explanation, only said, that they could not find them, whereupon he arose from his bed, went to the field where he had been at work so many years before, and found, where he had lost them, the wedges and iron rings of the beetle, the wooden part being entirely moldered away.

Cases like the one just quoted are valuable, as showing that in insanity the mind receives stain, contracts an impurity, however deformed the images, which may float before the heated brain, however gross the delusions, however horrid the blasphemies, to which the wandering lips may give utterance. That which is pure, remains pure still,—that which is holy, holy still. What a powerful motive does this consideration furnish for efforts to restore a gifted intellect, a fervent heart, to its wonted functions!

Moreover, the idea that insanity is but a bodily disorder furnishes antecedently the best possible ground to hope for its cure. Were it, as it is commonly termed, a mental disease, vain would be the help of man,—the only appeal would be to the direct interposition of the Father of Spirits. But if it be simply a bodily disorder, then it falls within the range which Providence has assigned to human skill and effort; and the treatment of it constitutes a distinct branch of medical science, like every other, capable of indefinite improvement.

But for the purpose of applying right means of restoration so far as they are known, and of making new discoveries with regard to the management of the insane, hospitals are indispensable, as we shall see by a momentary glance at the nature of the *requisite treatment*. It is two-fold,—*physical* and *moral*: the *physical* designed to reduce the body to a healthy state, and thus to furnish the soul with a safe true avenue of communication with the outward world,—the *moral* aiming to overleap the barriers which shattered nerves or a disordered brain may have interposed, to hold direct

converse with the imprisoned soul, and to call its health and vigorous action in bringing back its servant, the body, to its rightful post of duty. The physical treatment requisite consists less in a regular course of medicine, which could be administered any where, than in a strict and minute regimen, by which every item of diet, exercise, labor and recreation, shall be made to bear on the end proposed. There must be a close adaptation of all these particulars to the circumstances of each individual, and a change from time to time, according as he is excited or quiet, gay or sad, convalescent or the reverse. This requires a constant supervision on the part of the experienced and the skilful, and a management equally removed from the indiscriminate indulgence of injudicious kindness, and the severity of unnatural kindred or cruel keepers. These requisites cannot possibly be combined, except in an establishment devoted expressly to that one purpose.

To the second class of means, *spiritual means*, it is impossible to assign too high an efficacy. Severity and unkindness aggravate the disorder. Merely ordinary measures of care, expressions of interest and manifestations of love, reach not the shrouded soul, which seems like an apartment artificially darkened. But, as by the sun's noontide beams the crevices of such an apartment are penetrated, and its darkness changed into twilight, so by carefully concentrated rays of benevolence may the soul be reached through the thick walls, within which disease has pent it. God can hold direct communion with the darkened intellect; and, we cannot doubt, does visit it in its night season, giving it meat to eat which the world knows not of, infusing into it a light of peace, which his works have lost the power of imparting. He who, when on earth, bore the image and wielded the power of God, could by his very look break down the prison walls of disease, and call back the long alienated mind to its wonted functions; and we can easily conceive that such momentary restorations were but the natural and necessary effect of the divinity, which must have beamed in his every glance, and breathed in his every word,—at that smile of divine love, which played unceasingly upon his features, and made him literally and truly the son of righteousness. The fulness of the Godhead is no longer manifested bodily among us; and instantaneous restorations cannot

therefore be expected. But the usual treatment of humanity consists in carefully concentrating those same genial rays of love, which shone in their peerless effulgence in the incarnate Deity. Nature must be permitted to exert her charms, to spread her verdure, to hold forth her beauties, to warble her music, to appeal with her thousand voices of love to sensibilities unquenched though dormant. Then that human kindness and love, in which the divine spirit ever breathes, must be constantly and solidly exhibited. Every fear must be soothed; every want promptly supplied; every avenue of pleasurable emotion kept full; every needless restraint removed; every harmless indulgence granted; and thus must the alienated spirit be wooed forth from its retreat by the energy of love.

Now this class of means cannot be employed to the full with a private patient. There is no choice of residence for him; no opportunity to enlist in his behalf the brightest and most salubrious influences of nature, to which happy experience attunes us to attach the very first importance. Besides, it is hard to shield a private patient from insult. It is often unsafe, for want of suitable supervision, to release him from restraint, and to allow him the indulgences, which his case demands. And we have seen in how great a majority of instances those, (whether high or low, rich or poor,) who are left to the care of relatives or of the public, are treated with absolute cruelty.

But in public establishments for the relief of the insane, particularly in this country, the law of love is made the ruling principle. A spot is always selected, which nature has made lovely—elevated, airy, sunbeams, commanding an extensive prospect, capable of being tastefully laid out in garden, shrubbery, park and orchard. The house is always fitted up with scrupulous neatness, well ventilated, well heated. The utmost kindness is observed in the treatment even of refractory patients; and the slightest deviation from this rule is deemed a sufficient reason for discharging any attendant. With numerous overseers, and a large, but well fenced and guarded territory, personal confinement is, except in very rare instances, needless;—the patient sees not the eye that watches him,—feels not the hand that restrains him,—feels not against the grates of a prison, whose area is measured not by feet, but by acres. Then employment and recreation, whether of a bodily or mental character, are furnished to each according to

his peculiar tastes and wants. We are gratified also to find that religion is invited as a prime means of restoration,—that the influences of Him, at whose word insanity so often took flight, yet by the abuse of whose name it has still oftener been produced, are invoked to dispel the spirit of wildness and darkness, and to bring the sufferer to himself.

At the Bloomingdale Asylum in the suburbs of New-York, a venerable, mild, judicious, faithful chaplain is constantly employed, and every Sabbath may be seen a company of maniacs sitting as at the Gadarene demoniac at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and to human appearance in their right mind, listening earnestly to the soothing accents of christian love, singing devoutly in the responses of the liturgy, and lifting in faultless melody these songs of praise to Him, who commands the light to shine out of darkness. Within the last year, a chapel has been opened in the Worcester Asylum; and from an average number of 165 patients, 110 have attended public worship.

The superintendent writes as follows in his last Report: "Nothing has occurred to disturb the quiet, or to distinguish this from any other religious assembly. The inmates have been much gratified with this indulgence and proof of confidence. The favorable influence of these meetings upon the feelings and habits of our family, has been oft and more than was anticipated."

"Can we contemplate a more interesting spectacle, than this assembly of the insane, a large proportion of whom had been incarcerated for years in prison and in dungeons, or confined with chains, conveyed on the Sabbath for public worship, all decently clad and respectable in appearance, calm and self-possessed, listening with apparent attention to the messages of truth, uniting in the devotions, and joining in the songs of praise! all going to and returning from the chapel with order and decorum? Such a spectacle we have witnessed on each returning Sabbath, since our chapel was consecrated. Who can longer doubt that Christianity brings its consolations to the insane as well as to the rational mind?"

Let us now look for a moment at the results, which our hospitals manifest, and the encouragement which they afford for the establishment of similar institutions. In the first place, it is satisfactorily ascertained that, even in desperate and hopeless cases, confinement is totally unnecessary, and

that the most frantic can be admitted to all the physical comforts and enjoyments of civilized life. In the Worcester Asylum, there are very many going at large, entirely harmless, to whom it had been deemed unsafe to give the smallest share of liberty. In illustration of this remark, we quote the following passages from the report of the Worcester Asylum for 1835.

"Here may be witnessed the novel spectacle of two men ploughing in the field alone, *both insane, both having committed homicide*, and both having been confined in jail for a very long time."

One of the inmates, who had committed homicide, "had been when he was brought to the institution, twenty-eight years in prison—seven years he had not felt the influence of fire, and many nights he had not laid down for fear of freezing. He had not been shaved for twenty-eight years, and he had been provoked and excited by the introduction of hundreds to see the exhibitions of his ravings. He is now and has been, comfortable in health—well clad—keeps his bed and room remarkably clean, and although very insane on certain subjects, is most of the time pleasant, companionable, and entirely harmless and docile. He shaved himself twice a week—sits at table with sixteen others—takes his meals—walks about the village and over the fields with an attendant to accompany him."

Another man, who had also committed homicide, "had been in one prison fourteen years; he was naked—his hair and beard grown long; and his skin so entirely filled with the dust of charcoal, as to render it impossible from his appearance to discover what nation he was of. He was in the habit of screaming so loud as to annoy the whole neighborhood, and was considered a most dangerous and desperate man. When he came to the Hospital, he was provided with a new suit of clothes, which the sheriff advised us to have taken off and preserved, as he doubted not he would strip them in tatters in two hours. He was however, induced to preserve them with great care, and has constantly, for two years, worn his clothes, sleeps in a good bed, sits at the table to take his meals, and is quite a civil, although a very insane man."

Another case is related of "a mechanic, who had been in

close confinement for six years. He committed homicide; and if this institution had not been erected, would probably never have been permitted to leave his cell. He is now a useful mechanic; labors a great portion of his time; often reads his Bible and the public papers, is exceedingly happy that this place has been provided for him, and blesses its founders and conductors daily, for the benefits conferred by it on himself and other inmates. He walks abroad, and often attends church."

These are only a few of many cases reported. And were this all, could an Asylum only be afforded by public charity for the freedom and comfort of those innocent beings, whom an inscrutable Providence has cut off from usefulness, humanity would plead most loudly for an immediate supply of the deficiency.

But this is not all. Even in these old and desperate cases, not only improvement, but entire recovery sometimes takes place, though in more than two-thirds of the cases, which are left without proper treatment for more than a year, the disease becomes chronic and incurable. But if the patient be carried to an Asylum within three months of the first attack, recovery is almost certain—the risk of permanent insanity is slight. The proportion of cures, among those whose insanity is at less than a year's standing, is estimated by a comparison of several reports to amount to nine-tenths of the whole number. The cures of recent cases in the Hartford Asylum have gone even beyond this proportion, and have amounted to 91 per cent. of the whole number; while on the other hand, the same Asylum report only 28 per cent. of the chronic cases as cured. Were an Asylum established in our State, and in successful operation almost every patient would be carried to it in the early stages of the disease, and cases of incurable insanity would become exceedingly rare.

We submit these statements, fellow citizens, without comment. The facts, that we have cited, are of themselves the most eloquent appeal that we could offer. We would only remind you in conclusion that, in bestowing our influence and aid in this cause, we may, each of us, be preparing means of shelter, comfort and recovery for ourselves or our nearest and dearest relatives. No one of us can insure himself exempt from liability to mental derangement. Persons of the strongest bodies, the strongest nerves and the strongest minds have

been affected by it. Let us show mercy to present sufferers, that, should we be overtaken by the same calamity, we may find mercy. Let us not however have our interest in this cause on selfish grounds; but let us cultivate for the unfortunate subjects of insanity that familiar sympathy and fellow feeling, which a consciousness of our own liability to the same infirmity will inspire.

REPORT
OF THE
TRUSTEES

OF THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE,
MADE TO THE LEGISLATURE,

AT THEIR
NOVEMBER SESSION,

1893.

CYRUS BARTON, State Printer.

REPORT:

To the Honorable General Court, November session, 1840.

The Trustees of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, who were required by an act passed at the last session of the Legislature, to report the amount of funds on hand belonging to the corporation, and the mode of investment of the same, with an estimate of the necessary expenses to purchase land and for the erection and furnishing suitable buildings and apartments for the accommodation of 120 patients, and the annual average expense at which their friends, or those liable for their maintenance may support the same, at said Asylum, together with such information in relation to the institution, and such other facts in connection with the establishment of an Asylum, as they may deem important for the consideration of the Legislature, respectfully submit the following report:

Knowing that there must be a large number of insane in our State, who are in a sad condition, both in respect to their comfort and prospect of restoration, and believing the establishment of a Hospital to be of vast importance, not only to those who now or may hereafter be afflicted with this dreadful malady, but also to the State in a pecuniary point of view, we have sought for information from those who were experienced in similar institutions, and have received exceedingly valuable aid from Dr. George Chandler of the Worcester Asylum in the performance of the duty assigned us, and which we have endeavored to attend to, with that care and industry which its importance demanded.

The success of medical treatment of this unfortunate and troublesome class of patients out of Hospitals is not well ascertained; and indeed, in a large proportion of the cases in private practice, little or no medical means can be pursued, for they will not be controlled by their own family and take medicine, when as the patient will often say, "that he never enjoyed better health in his life." But few physicians in the country see enough cases of mental derangement, to feel confidence in their own ability to manage them, and do usually recommend their removal to some Hospital. Recent cases of insanity in Hospitals are treated with as great success as other diseases of equal severity under any circumstances. Cures are effected in more than ninety out of an hundred; and in cases of long standing the chances of cure are sufficient to hold out strong hope, if not of entire restoration, at least of great amelioration.

The report to the Legislature in 1836 of 141 towns containing 150,563 inhabitants, shows that 117 of them are insane—that is, one person to every six hundred, nearly—and of that number 81 are in confinement, 112 are supported entirely at public charge, and 190 are not paupers. If the census recently taken the whole number of insane returned in the State is 480—177 of whom are reported as paupers and 308 as supported at private charge. Some of these are idiots and others of them are so quiet and harmless, as not to require any restraint beyond what can be applied by their friends at home; but it is estimated by those best able to judge correctly, that one person in every thousand in New England, is so far beyond all reason as to be dangerous to themselves or the community—dangerous to their own lives by suicide or by exposing themselves to the severities of the weather, or neglecting to take sufficient, and dangerous to the community by putting in peril the lives and property of others, or disturbing the peace. If this estimate is correct, New Hampshire must have within its own borders about 285, for whom justice and humanity for their own comfort and restoration, and the safety and quiet of others, would seem to demand a well established and skilful conducted Asylum.

With some of the insane, the imaginary life of life, brought on by real disease of the body, deeply overshadow all the prospect of future happiness, and grand the victim of disease and

delusion on to suicide; while others fancy, that they are singled out by some supernatural power to offer themselves up in sacrifice to appease the anger of an offended God and to atone for the sins of their fellow men! These people need the restraints and constant vigilance of kind nurses and skilful physicians with comfortable rooms, such as are found in well regulated Insane Hospitals.

Many of the insane suffer from the want of, and irregularity in, taking proper food. The various organs of the body are vitiated and changed. In some the desire of stimulating food and drink becomes craving and ungovernable, and in others all desire for nourishment is wanting.

The first class run into all excesses of food and drink, which adds fury to their heated passions and propensities, rendering the disease more permanent and the maniac more dangerous. The second, from inanition, become feeble and consumptive and death ere long would terminate their career. For these persons the regular meals of a Hospital would abate the voracity of the one and overcome with care in the attendants, the abstemiousness of the other.

Where now are the insane of New Hampshire? The strong rooms, the cages and the jails will answer for at least eighty-one of the number, and others of them are perhaps as badly off, wandering at large, irritated and insulted by the idle and vicious and often refusing through fear, or jealousy the proffered boon from the cold hand of charity. Many will not keep themselves comfortably clad, and they must suffer. A few of the insane will not complain of the cold, it is tolerable health, and will apparently bear the severity of the weather better than persons of sane minds. This state of the system arises from some peculiarity of their disease. But this number is extremely small for as many as nine in ten are in feeble health, with great susceptibility in the nervous system and suffer keenly from the cold.

They need more clothing and warmer atmosphere, than persons in health, and yet the falling of the thermometer with many is not a sufficient admonition of danger, to make them draw more closely around them their tattered garments.

These afflicted beings should have for the winter season, at least, a habitation like the comfortable quarters in the Insane Hospital in New England, made strong and

light, but well ventilated light and cheerful, and heated throughout, by a constant current of pure air thrown in by furnaces, so that all parts of the establishment shall have a warm and temperate atmosphere. In no other place, can many of our neighbors and friends, who are insane, be made as well off, as we should wish to be, were we in their stead.

It has not been a rare occurrence in this State of late, that the lives of our people have not only been put in jeopardy, but in more than one instance, has the maniac accomplished his horrid purpose, and oftener has the plea of insanity been urged with propriety in courts of justice in justification of his conduct for doing some heart-rending deed.

If these maniacs had been confined, valuable lives would have been saved, and the feelings of friends would not have been wounded, and the poor maniac in his lucid intervals, would not have the horrid thought of having sent a fellow mortal out of being before his fire, continually coming up before his mind.

And how often a whole neighborhood is alarmed, when a man whose reason has ceased to govern his actions, comes among them? The question immediately arises, how can he be controlled? Often he will not listen to the voice of authority, nor even that of kindness, and when once secured, vigilance may relax her bold and human exertions cease, and in an unguarded moment, some dreadful deed may be perpetrated, which will demonstrate, it is, that seclusion in some Hospital, away from all deadly weapons, should be added to watching in such cases, for the safety of the community.

We have supposed of the 485 insane persons in the State, about 28—one in a 1000 of its inhabitants according to the census recently taken, are proper subjects for a Hospital, and would be benefited by a residence therein. But it cannot be expected, that all such would be placed there, by friends, or those who have the charge of them. About one third of this number, say 78, may be safely calculated upon, who would seek such a place of refuge. If the price of supporting an individual except clothing, should be fixed at two dollars per week, which perhaps is as low as estimates should be made to set upon, though we believe the pauper insane might be kept for a less sum, as many as 30 would go there from pecuniary consid-

emotions, for no violent insane persons can be comfortably provided for, at any less, out of a Hospital. There are unquestionably many supported for less, but their comforts must be, and are had in the cells of the prison or the cage, which are cold comforts to the furious maniac, as their shivering limbs and frost-bitten feet too often bear witness!

Persons with simple means do look to these institutions as the homes of the afflicted, and towns having the spirit of the golden rule to instruct their municipal officers by, will voluntarily at their own (expense of the State,) when suitable provision is made, relieve their almshouses of these troublesome inmates to be better looked after in a Hospital.

The worst accommodation in the poor houses are assigned to the insane, for they cannot be allowed to associate with the other inmates, and will not be controlled in their paroxysms of fury, without being shut up in the dark cold room which is often, and it may be a necessary part of the establishment.

A large majority of this class of 30 have been diseased for many years perhaps, and many of them cannot be expected to recover under even the most favorable circumstances. They will be placed there for the security of others, and to ameliorate their own sad condition. Besides this, there is another class, of an innumerable magnitude continually forming from the ranks of the sane. They are often met with by the physician in his daily rounds. It is for these unfortunate beings, that an institution is especially adapted, and in the management and curing of them would its usefulness be manifested to all. The number of this class may be approximated in this State, by taking as the guide the number in Massachusetts. In the year 1855, there were received into three of the institutions in Mass., from that State alone, 124 patients, who became crazy that year; and of the whole number taken in-care that year says this writer, Dr. Brigham, "it is probable that this is not more than one-half." After this ratio, our State would have more than 37 of her citizens to be added each year to this melancholy list, for whom their friends would seek the Asylum. This number of recent cases, with about 90 old cases, would fill up at all times the accommodations for 120. So we see, that if the State is about to make provisions for

all who would probably wish them, a building to accommodate 120 would not be too large.

The comparative expense of supporting old cases of insanity that have been neglected while in a curable state, and of supporting and curing cases while recent, is clearly demonstrated in the 6th report, page 57 of the State Lunatic Hospital, at Worcester, Mass.

This institution was established with special reference to the amelioration of the condition of that class of persons, who were shut up in jails and houses of correction—many of whom after committing some criminal offence, had been acquitted of the charge by reason of insanity; but not deemed safe to be at large.—Twenty old cases, the first on the records of the institution, who at that time remained in the Hospital, and twenty recent, whose disease had existed when they entered less than three months, and who recovered, are compared in a pecuniary point of view. The old cases had cost before they came to the Hospital their friends or the public more than \$1500 each. The twenty recent had cost but \$47.50 each, and were well, and were with their friends in the pursuit of happiness: while the twenty old cases were still confined and probably must be, as long as they live, at a yearly expense each, sufficient to cure in a Hospital at least two recent cases.

The report goes on to say—"If these twenty old cases had been subjected to proper medical treatment in a Hospital, while recent, we may suppose that at least seventeen of them would have recovered at an expense, not exceeding the average cost of supporting the twenty recent cases," to wit, forty-seven dollars and fifty cents. There would then have been a saving of actual expense to the friends or the public of more than \$47,000—a sum sufficient to erect and endow an institution for the support of twenty recent insane persons perpetually."

The most approved plan of a building for the Insane, is like the one at Worcester, Mass., with some alterations. Improvements have been made in the plans for Hospitals, as they have successively been erected, from the one first built at Williamsburg, Virginia, anterior to the Revolution, and used by the troops as barracks at that time, until the present day. A centre building with lateral wings—the cen-

tre about 70 feet by 45 and four stories high—having accommodations for the family of the Superintendent and for all others employed, except those who have the particular charge of the patients, business rooms, dining-rooms for all the patients in the rear and perhaps the washing and ironing in the basement. It is most convenient, that the kitchen should occupy the front of the first story; and the office of the Superintendent be on the second floor, the stairs from the front door leading up to it. The wings should be connected, and run each way on a line parallel with the centre building, but thrown far enough in the rear, that the end of the wing may admit of a window, to let the light and air pass through the halls between, rooms in all the stories. Each wing should be 100 feet long in front and 110 in the rear, affording space for eleven rooms on each side of the hall, which will be twelve feet wide and which should be used for a day room by the patients. Of these dormitories in each gallery, one must be used by the nurses as a sleeping room—one for the sick-room and water closet with a partition, and another would be taken up by a flight of stairs and passage way where the wing joins on to the centre building—leaving 19 dormitories for patients in each gallery, ten feet by ten including partition walls—leaving the rooms about 9 feet and 4 inches by 8 feet by 9 inches. For rooming and convenience pleasantness too, the wings should be three stories high. Such a plan gives three galleries in each wing of 19 rooms each, making 114 in all, affording for the classification of each sex, three distinct apartments. In addition to these, there should be for the very noisy and violent, and those distressed beings, who are regardless of habits of personal cleanliness, some separate strong rooms for each sex. Six for each sex would be amply sufficient.

The comfort of the more calm and convalescent inmates of the main building would absolutely require it, as some of the most dangerous and most ferocious of our fellow beings are to be found in that class, for which such institutions are established. These rooms should be so constructed, that they might be kept so warm in the coldest weather, that the naked eyes could not suffer, and yet have no access to fire.

The building should be thoroughly made of good materials.

substantial and convenient. Whatever can minister to the comfort of the patients or increase the facilities of taking care of them should be added. Neatness and simplicity of style comport better with good taste than elaborate ornaments; besides, it is more appropriate for such a building, for such a purpose.

The appeals of charity for our aid come with the greatest force, when she appears in a modest girl. Such a building could be erected in this State for about \$20,000. We have arrived at this conclusion from the following details and estimates, with the aid of mechanics acquainted with building Hospitals, and Physicians connected with the same. The calculation is made for walls of brick 20 inches thick in the lower story, diminishing 4 inches in each ascending story—and cellar wall of stone 2 feet thick.

Expense of excavating and stoning cellar under the whole building including underpinning, stone and dead stops,	\$2,000
Brick work, 100 M. at 85,	8,500
Timber, 100 M. at 85,	800
Boards, 100 M. at \$10,	1,000
Staircases, 100 M. at 85,	800
Doors and Windows,	1,500
Nails, door hinges and trimmings,	250
Plastering 5000 yards,	600
Carpenters' and Joiners' work,	1,500
Furnaces,	1,000
Oil and iron ornaments, at 85,	1,250
Painting,	500

\$20,000

The use of Worcester, built in 1850-51, costs but little more than that sum, besides the furnishing.

In 1851, when it was in contemplation to make additional accommodations for patients at Worcester, a committee, who took much pains to make enquiries upon the subject, obtained a plan and estimate of building with 102 apartments, for patients arranged in halls, and eight strong rooms for the physicians, and with sufficient rooms for those who would have charge of the inmates. The plan of this committee was similar to the one we have suggested above, and to stand contiguous to the original Hospital.—The architect furnished estimates

such as he was willing to contract to build by, and he was the same gentleman who superintended the erection of the first building. This committee said such a building could be erected for \$18,000, and they said there could be but little doubt but they were high enough.

From the known cost of similar institutions, built at a time when the prices were higher than almost ever for labor and materials; and from the report of the committee of our Legislature in 1836, based upon the estimate of architects for such a building, and from a favorable time for building, when prices are comparatively low, it would be safe to put the outlay for an Insane Hospital with accommodations for one hundred and twenty patients at \$25,000.

Besides the naked building, there are other expenses to be incurred for permanent fixtures, which are needed in ordinary dwellings—among them,

One hundred and twenty dead locks at \$1.75 each,	\$210 00
Thirty spring locks for entry passages, at \$2.25 each,	67 50
Two lead tanks for water in the attic, holding about 200 gallons, with pipes, stop cocks, for the whole establishment, the same which cost at the Worcester, Mass., on contract, including seven stools or water closets, of the most approved pattern, one for each gallery, and for centre building in the basement,	500 00
Wood work for Tanks,	30 00
Twelve wooden Settees for six galleries,	48 00
Dialing tables for patients—two to each room,	60 00
Benches to sit on to eat—four to each room,	24 00
The cooking range, consisting of Rumford Roaster, at \$60; Copper Steam Generator, holding about 18 gallons, at \$15; a copper Tea Kettle, holding about 18 gallons, at \$15; two cast iron Kettles, one holding 14, the other 20 gallons, at \$4; and \$5 for the fixtures for the steamy and iron work,	99 00

\$1008 50

For the washing room, there must be two copper boilers, one for heating water to be drawn by lead pipes into permanent washing tubs, and the other for boiling clothes in holding about 75 gallons.

each, costing	\$100 00
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which being added, makes	\$1128 91
To each patient's room there must be a bedstead,	\$3 00
Half mattress, 14 lbs. at 34 cts. per lb. with pillows,	4 76
8 yards ticking at 17 cents per yard,	1 36
For making up the same,	67
For under bed 7 yards of Burlap,	77
3 sheets for each bed, 50 cents each,	1 50
Two blankets, at	1 25
Two pillow cases,	50
A commodepan,	2 50
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	\$17 33
This multiplied by 134, the number of rooms for patients in galleries, gives	\$1973 34
The furniture for patients' table will consist of knives and forks, 9 doz. \$2 per doz.	\$18 00
Ten cups and saucers, 9 doz. at \$1 per doz.	9 00
Common plates, 9 doz. at 84 cents,	7 56
Soup plates,	12 50
Ten spoons, 8 doz. \$4.50-12 tea pots, \$5,	10 00
Quart bowls, 4 doz. at 75 cents,	4 50
Table spoons, 9 doz.	12 96
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	\$26 92
For each gallery there must be a table,	
2 large glass lamps to be hung in the hall,	\$10 00
2 small lamps 48, 3 pails 75 cents,	1 25
1 bench \$1, 3 brooms \$5, tin wash bowls,	2 12
Two of the best galleries will need for each room, 1 chair and 1 table at \$1.75 for 34 rooms,	62 40
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	\$70 40
The centre building should be furnished in a style suitable to the wants of the officers of the establishment, and for the reception of those who may visit on business or otherwise.	

Fourteen double beds, 6 of them in the galleries for the nurses, and 8 in the centre for the farmer, cooks and others, with two or three spare beds, 20 lbs. of hair at 34 cts. per lb. to each bed,	\$25 20
3 lbs. hair for pillows to each bed, 42 lbs. at 34 cts.	14 28
Ticking for 14 beds, 162 yards each, 18 yards at 17 cts.	28 56
Making 14 beds and pillows, \$1.50 each,	21 00
14 under beds, material and making \$1 each,	14 00
14 bedsteads at \$6 each,	84 00
14 white counterpanes at \$4 each,	56 00
1 pair blankets at \$3, for 14 beds,	42 00
3 sheets at each bed, 14—42, at 75 cents each,	31 50
Pillow cases 1 to each bed—54, at 25 each,	16 50
	<hr/>
	\$233 04

The other furniture for the centre building should not cost much, and yet the quality ought to be good, and which we have estimated at	\$120 00
Estimate of the Hospital building,	20660 00
Permanent fixtures exclusive of masonry,	1128 50
Furniture for patients' beds,	1973 34
Furniture for patients' dining rooms,	76 02
Furniture for patients' galleries,	76 40
Beds and furniture for centre building,	403 04
	<hr/>
	\$23,827 30

The annual expense of such an establishment will consist of the salary of the physician and superintendant which is estimated at	\$7,000 00
Seward and matron,	500
Assistant physician, if there should be such an office, and most Hospitals do have one, although perhaps it may not prove necessary,	300
Seven male attendants at \$13 per month,	1,092
Thirteen female attendants and assistants at \$1.50 per week,	1,014
Provisions,	5,000
Fuel, 500 cords wood at \$2.50 per cord,	1250
Oil for lights and candles,	100

Annual repairs on the premises,	500
For the supply of furniture and bedding,	200
Miscellaneous or contingent expenses,	200

\$11,750

Divided by 120 patients gives to each for their support a year at the Hospital, about \$100, which is about \$1.52 per week. The price of board at Brattleborough is for the poor of Vermont, \$2 per week. Some pay \$5, and those with private rooms pay more.

Two dollars and fifty cents for several years back, when all articles of living have been high, would have covered all the current expenses at Worcester, had all paid.

At South Boston, the price for boarders is fixed at \$2.50. At Nashville, Kentucky, where they have about 120 patients, the expense is about \$1.25 per week, but this can hardly be said to be a curable institution. Let any person however, make the briefest comparison of the leading items of expense, such as salaries, wages, provisions, fuel, &c., in the large and populous town of Worcester, and the city of Boston, with what it would be in the interior of New-Hampshire, and not a doubt can remain, that the same number could be equally well sustained here at \$2 per week, if not for less, as at either of those places at \$2.50 per week. It appears by the report of the committee made to the Legislature in 1838, that in only three cases made in the returns of the Insane of 1834, was the expense of supporting them mentioned, and those were town paupers—two of them cost \$100 per year each—the other \$3.50 per week. There was one town pauper reported as being supported at the private institution of Dr. Cutter, at Pepperell, the expense of which was not mentioned. It was also the opinion of that committee, that the expense of supporting patients at a Hospital in this State, would not exceed \$78.22 per year, exclusive of clothing,—a cost in fact below their present actual expense to our communities.

The very important facts should be regarded that each one of these Insane, who is so situated as to have others depending upon him for support, is of necessity compelled to transfer the burden over to the public, thus indirectly increasing the cost of insanity to the people; and it also be considered, that a burden of years must be expected in every case from

the hopelessness of cure, which would to a great extent be removed by the curative influences of an Asylum, we feel sure that, so far from the institution being an expense to the public, it would be most desirable as an economical, money-saving establishment: without looking to and benefit of cure, amelioration or safety.

Dr. Pritchard speaking of madness and imbecility says, of the 12,647 ascertained to exist in England, not fewer than 11,000 are paupers—one to 820 in agricultural districts, while in mining districts the like insane amount to one in 1200. By this, it appears that this calamity in England falls in a great proportion on the poorer class of the community. This is contrary to our preconceived opinions, for it is generally supposed that the agriculturalist has a greater immunity from most diseases, and especially that which disturbs the equilibrium of the mental faculties, than those of almost any other occupation. But we find of 368, who were in the Hospital at Worcester, in 1838, one hundred and two farmers not including the common laborer, and of this 328, one hundred and sixty were females. By which it seems, of those afflicted with this dreadful ailment in the Hospital at Worcester, about one half are farmers.

The relative proportion of insanity and idiots in any community varies with the scale of intelligence and civilization.

Where the people are enterprising and intelligent, many will tax their brains beyond endurance, and insanity follows—but when the thinking instrument is but little used, it follows the laws which govern the rest of our animal system, and becomes insensible.—Compared with other countries, the proportion of idiots among the farming population of New-England is not large, and for them, unless violent, the almshouse furnishes, if attended to, a comfortable home, but they are not so for the furious insane. And the small towns, where there is but one or two families, cannot afford to build for them rooms, in which they can be comfortable, and devote that peculiar attention to them which their condition requires; and the neighboring private Asylums ask for boarders out of their own State, \$5 or more per week.

This may feed a large sum to pay.

It is also to be considered, that it is questionable whether towns have a legal right to send their pauper insane to Hospitals out of the State, although many have done it (and

as was to be expected without complaint,) and caused them to be cured: thereby saving to themselves not only the burden of supporting an insane person for years and probably during his life; but also of his family which might otherwise have been thrown upon the town by being deprived of their natural support.

In addition, it is to be considered that we have no statute provision authorizing the restraint or taking care of an insane person, whose being at large may endanger the property or persons of our citizens, until he shall have done the deed, or committed some crime or offence. The law of July 2, 1877 authorizes the Court "to commit to prison, only such persons as shall have been charged with crime or offences, but have been acquitted by the jury by reason of insanity." In such case the Courts are empowered to commit the insane person to prison, *there to be detained till he or she be restored to his or her right mind, or otherwise delivered by the course of law*, and such person is to be kept at his or her own expense, if he or she have estate sufficient for that purpose; otherwise the charge of the county, no system of treatment could be devised better calculated to drive the victims of insanity beyond the limits of hope, than to incarcerate them in our jails, and make them the companions of persons of all colors and degree of crime, subject to their sport and ridicule. Of the hundreds and thousands, which have been confined to prison, nobody ever knew or heard of more than three instances of recovery from insanity during the confinement of a person to a jail or house of correction.

It may seem less objectionable to some, to imprison with felons, an individual who was so furiously angry, that in one of his paroxysms, he put to death a citizen or burnt his building (even if he were as innocent of any crime as the sleeping infant,) than it would be to imprison an insane person, on a well grounded apprehension, that he would do violence to himself or others; and yet it is no less desirable to prevent the original injury, than its repetition, if it can be consistent with humanity and prudence. These considerations all go to show that New Hampshire should, in the spirit of philanthropy and patriotism, build in some convenient place, a receptacle for all the poor and dangerous insane, and others who should deserve it, where they can be supported at a most reasonable rate and in a manner not directly calculated to fasten the disease upon them.

If there is any one in the community more deserving of the protection and assistance of the State, than any other, when overtaken by this great calamity, it is the man with moderate means, whose daily labor is necessary for the support of himself and family. When such a man becomes insane, his wife and family must become beggars with him, as soon as his small substance is wasted, but if a Hospital was ready to receive him at a low rate of board, perhaps his family could sustain themselves until the husband and father should be restored to them again in his right mind. When the man of wealth becomes deranged, the private institutions at Charlestown, Hartford, or Brattleboro' will afford him any accommodations and luxuries deemed proper, that his friends may choose to pay for, so he may journey, or he may be at the great expense of calling in his own physician and having nurses; but the man with small means and the pauper cannot do this.

In Massachusetts there are several towns from which more than one to every thousand of the inhabitants are supported at the Hospital at Worcester, and this has been the case a long time since the Institution was opened, about one half of them have been a public charge to the towns.

The beneficial effect of labor on land, both to the health of the patient, and as a means of lessening the general expense of the Hospital, making it in more measures self-supporting, is by no means small. Many of the chronic cases can, and are willing to do a vast deal of labor, and with proper supervision their efforts can be turned to a good account. The delusions of the insane are strengthened and grown, by being often referred to; but, if their minds can be drawn off from the morbid train of thoughts and the patient becomes interested in any healthful occupation, the habit of attending to the insane topic becomes weaker until at last the false idea or impressions entirely vanish. Fanning and horticulture are healthful and attractive to those who have previously been engaged in them. When the mind is first emerging from the chaos of mental aberration, it is delighted, when it can hit upon its former modes of reasoning. The farmer is pleased when he can see the earth yielding her fruits, as she did before the dark cloud of insanity overshadowed him and the gardener rejoices again when he can make the tree-plant and the flowers start forth at his will.

At none of the institutions in New England has there happened any injury from playing instruments of labor in the hands of the patients, nor need there be any, when the laborers are carefully watched and not taken out when the paroxysms are coming on.

At the McLean Asylum the net profit of the farm and garden in 1836 was \$600; in 1837, \$709 91; in 1838, \$1086 45. They have about 25 acres of land.

At Worcester the profit of the land, about 60 acres, was in 1838 \$1110 17, and in 1839 as estimated by the steward it amounted to \$1314 30, including pork, beef and poultry raised and fattened; in 1840, not including pork or beef fattened, from the farm and garden \$3117 50. It is often the case that twenty patients may be seen together in the field some working all day and others a part of each day, and when they become tired, another company stands ready to fill their places. In these cases, there is always some one to direct the labor, who is not insane. There are several who are permitted to labor by themselves without any particular oversight.

If New Hampshire had an Asylum for the indigent with land contiguous, we know not why the same favorable results might not be expected and realized. One hundred acres should be secured if possible; and if it should prove to be good quality, there would be no excuse for the superintendent with the great supply of labor he would have at his command. If it was not the pattern farm for all that region.

If the result of the farming operations should be equally favorable as at Worcester, (and there is no reason why it should not be) it would diminish the price of board for each of the 120 patients about \$15 yearly. Compensation to any patient for labor should not be expected, as it would be difficult to determine its value, where they labor so irregularly, but should go into the general fund for the benefit of all. The labor is one of the most beneficial remedial means used for the individual. The opportunities of outdoor labor afforded by a farm would in a degree do away with the necessity of yards or courts, which are expensive, and give to the Hospital when they are attached, a forbidding aspect. It is but a little more work, to have the charge of a large share of the patients at work in the field or walking in the roads and fields, than it is to be with them in

yards, idling away their time. The fences must be very high or they afford no protection against escapes. In the insubercle region of New England, there are but few days in which it would not be injurious to the individual to be out without being engaged in some exercise. Yards are of doubtful utility; and more than one for each sex, we are persuaded, could not be wanted. The insubercle are the only patients who should be allowed to go into them, and they are the only ones, who can be persuaded to use them, as the working man would prefer being with the farmer, and the man who has not been accustomed to manual labor, would decidedly prefer to walk about the village with his attendant as his companion. Many of the insane can be trusted to go where they please, on their pledge to return without an attendant. The great art of managing the insane consists in gaining their entire confidence; when this can be done, there is but little need of yard fences or the straight jacket.

The expense of supporting the pauper insane, if in proportion throughout the State to many of the towns heard from in 1837-38, is at least \$2 per week, and the average number of years of their insanity, varying from 2 weeks to 60 years, if in proportion, would be 11 1-2 years each. Allowing that 30 or even 40 per cent. of them, (the lower number of recoveries as appears by the reports of Hospitals,) could have been cured, at the same expense each, for which the 26 cases in the Worcester Hospital were cured, viz. \$47 50, and reckoning the cost of supporting them at \$20 1/2 per year each, for the number of years they have been insane and their time at \$75 per year each, the saving to the State or the towns in a pecuniary point of view, could they have gone to an Asylum, would have been immense, to say nothing of the thousands of years of mental anguish avoided.

The amount of funds belonging to the corporation is reported by the Treasurer, consists of shares in the New Hampshire Bank which cost \$15,000, but from information obtained are believed to be worth and can be sold for at least 15 per cent. in advance making \$17,500 \$17,500 00
 Cash in Derry bank at 5 per cent. interest, 320 00
 One note on interest, of \$1000, with security, 1000 00
 Sundry other notes, 256 00
 Interest due on notes and from Derry Bank, 777 00
 Amount of assessment expected to be declared on

bank stock, Jan. 1,	450 00
Amount due on subscription papers,	245 00

\$695 00

In addition, the town of Concord has placed in the hands of their committee appointed for that purpose, \$9,500 of undoubted securities with power to transfer the same to the corporation, whenever said Asylum shall be located in said town.	\$9,500 00
One individual of the Board of Trustees will give \$500 on the same condition, •	500 00
The amount of subscription and notes for the same purpose,	32 500

Total \$20,755 00

One hundred acres of land, of the number of places in said town deemed most eligible for a location, can be obtained at a reasonable price in each place, and varying from \$25 to \$50 per acre.

Taking the highest price for the land, and which would depend upon the spot selected, and the whole expense for purchasing the same, erecting and furnishing the building, and which we have given in detail, that any omission or error might be discovered and which we believe will turn out if not correct in every particular, yet in the main, liberal and within the limits of truth, and there would remain in the Treasury, after erecting and furnishing the Hospital, if in Concord, \$1754 00, to be expended in the purchase of such stock and farming utensils as might be needed for the institution.

The town of Pembroke, we are informed, will give, together with individuals for the same purpose, \$5000 on condition that the institution is located in that town. Of the places deemed most suitable there, the price of land is reasonable and would vary from \$25 to \$40 per acre.

In considering the future prospects of the institution, it should be remembered that a legacy has been left in Kerns of about \$20,000 to the first Asylum, that shall be erected, subject to a life estate. In addition, from information received, we believe \$500 will be given by the religious soci-

eties in the State, and we have received assurances, from many individuals, who had previously given, but withdrawn their funds on the uncertainty when the institution would be commenced, that they would again give in aid of the object and some have promised, that they would double their subscription, if the Legislature should deem it advisable to authorize the commencement of the institution.

If all the current expenses of the institution can be defrayed by fixing the price of board at even \$2 per week, and we have shown that it is hoped they may at \$85 per year, or about \$1.63 per week, we should be much disappointed if of the 480 income and blind as shown by the census (and it is believe there are more) there were not at least 120 who would be placed there for their restorations and comfort without any aid from the State, by their friends, and the towns who are now paying on their account a greater sum. And we mistake entirely the character of our citizens, if so noble an object, as that of building up a mind in ruins, will not commend itself to their encouragement and aid, and while charity from time to time, so liberally openeth her hands for other purposes, she will not close them to the appeals of an institution, which will be the means of alleviating and preventing such an immense mass of unutilized, undisturbed subject.

JOHN CONANT,
JOSEPH LOW,
CHARLES J. FOX,
GEORGE W. KITTREDGE,
IRA ST. CLAIR,
SAM'L SWASEY,
C. H. PRASLEE,

Trustees of the
N. H. Asylum
for the Insane.

Concord, Nov. 24. 1840.



SECOND REPORT

OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

To the Honorable,

the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire.

The Trustees of the New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane who were required by the act of the Legislature of Dec. 17, 1820, to report at this session the progress made, the amount and condition of the funds on hand and such other information as they may deem important for their consideration, respectfully submit the following Report:

That immediately after the passage of the act authorizing them to proceed in the erection of an Asylum, on condition that the town of Concord should transfer and convey to said Asylum securities to the amount of \$2,500,00, they met and organized the Board by choosing a President, Secretary and Treasurer, and proceeded to locate said Asylum in the town of Concord, about three-fourths of a mile southwesterly from the State House, said town of Concord having previously secured to said Asylum the sum of \$9,500.

The farm purchased for the use of said Asylum consists of between one hundred and twenty and one hundred and

twenty-one acres, for which we paid \$4,100.

A Building Committee has been appointed, authorized to erect suitable buildings on the land obtained for that purpose, which has proceeded to contract for the erection of said Asylum, and the contractors are now engaged in laying the foundation and preparing and furnishing the materials for the performance of their contracts.

Most of the principal contracts having been made and to the amount of about sixteen thousand dollars, the Trustees, feel great confidence that the expense of erecting the Asylum will not much, if any, exceed the estimate made to the Legislature, at its last session.

From the contracts and progress already made, the Trustees expect the exterior of to be completed the present season, and the whole to be finished for the reception of one hundred and twenty patients by the first of November, 1842.

The condition of the funds remain the same as reported at the last session of the Legislature with the exception of about \$5,000 expended for the Farm and materials, and which has been principally received from the donation made by the town of Concord. It is with real satisfaction that the Trustees are able to state that this prospect is in so rapid progress, and that the prospect is so favorable, that a retreat for that unfortunate class of our fellow men, the insane, will soon as practicable be furnished in New Hampshire.

JOHN CONANT,
ENOS STEVENS,
JN. H. STERILE,
IRA ST. CLAIR,
JOSIAH STEVENS, Jr.,
SAM'L SWASEY,
JOHN S. WELLS,
G. W. KITTREDGE,
JOSEPH LOWE,
C. H. PEASLEE,

*Trustees
of the N. H.
Asylum for
the Insane.*

Concord, June 4th. 1841.

